



## Pastor's Message

Trinity Friends,

God knocked Paul off his horse. We always need to remember that God helps us at times by re-directing us. "God is still speaking" is more than a slogan. Sometimes we don't appreciate God's re-directions. The world has certainly needed to scramble to keep up with the changes that followed the pandemic.

The comma says that our Faith is alive and vibrant- and that we are open to changing our minds about people and issues. Clearly this is the model of faithful people of the Bible. We like to think that Christian faith is being sure about everything, but in reality it is about following the elusive presence of love in the world. Our own experience of walking with God is that we are changed.

Our ideas naturally grow and change within the frame of "Embracing and Celebrating God's love."

When Sister Joan Chittister was 7 years old, she raced home from school one day, bursting to tell her mother what she had learned from her teacher. She ran, Chittister recalled, because she wanted to get home before her stepfather, who was Presbyterian. The nun had taught her that day that only Catholics go to heaven. When her mother calmly asked her what she thought of that, she said, "I think it's wrong."

"Why?," her mother asked. "Because Sister doesn't know my Daddy," Joan replied. "And then my mother said, 'And what did you say, Joan?' and I hung my head. I said, 'I didn't say anything.' I was so ashamed of myself. "My mother put her arms around me and she said, 'I'm very proud of you, darling. That's very wise. When you grow up, you can tell Sister later."

You might say Sister Joan Chittister has been doing that ever since. Finding words to speak to others about our faith is seldom easy. After all, we take vows of membership that ask us to "resist evil and oppression and to show love and justice and to witness to the way Jesus lived his life."

Often, however, we don't have the words to speak. Sometimes we just stand there with our mouths wide open not knowing what to say.

We can say;

"Our church welcomes everyone no matter who they are and I stand with them."

"We believe that God loves everyone." "We believe that God's grace is true."

"Our Church embraces and celebrates God's love." "We choose to live in faith instead of fear."

"We believe that our faith is more about courage than comfort."

Thank you for your support of all God's people and the wise counsel that you offer for both those inside our community of faith and those looking in from the outside.

Your partner in Christ's Ministry,

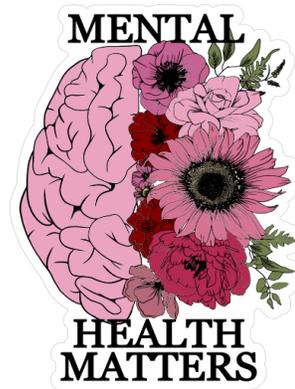
Dr. Franklin

# May WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## 10:30am



- 1 3rd Sunday of Eastertide  
"Changes" Acts 9:1-6
- 8 **Mother's Day**  
"Great is Your Faithfulness"  
Acts 9:26-43, Psalm 23  
Lay Reader: The Varno Family
- 15 Loving God With Our Minds: Mental Health Sunday  
John 13:31-35, Matthew 22:37  
Lay Reader: Dee Carter
- 22 "Dressed in Purple"  
Acts 16:9-15
- 29 Memorial Day Weekend  
"That They May All be One"  
John 17:20-26



Looking ahead;

- June 5 Pentecost/Graduations
- June 12 **Outdoor Worship** at Christmas Run Park
- June 19 Juneteenth Rally NSM week



Please consider helping us fill in the open spots for this month by visiting the sign up sheet in the outer narthex to serve on Sunday mornings. If you sign up for altar flowers, please let the office know if the flowers are given for a special celebration or in honor or in memory of someone so that it may be included in the bulletin.

**Trinity UCC Wooster - "Embracing and celebrating God's Love"**

**General Operating Fund Financial Snapshot**

	<u>**Current Month**</u>		<u>*2022 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	\$10,471	\$17,150	\$42,970	\$55,260	\$48,274
Expenses	<u>\$28,078</u>	<u>\$31,982</u>	<u>\$801132</u>	<u>\$91,664</u>	<u>\$71.491</u>
Net	(\$17,606)	(\$14,832)	(\$37,162)	(\$36,404)	(\$23,217)

Comments:

March ended up being a low contribution month. On the expense side, we incurred three months of our radio broadcast that we didn't receive the invoices. Otherwise, there were no extra ordinary expenses.

Building Repair Fund Balance: - (14,358)

BREAKFAST PROGRAM BALANCE: \$28,521

Trinity Breakfast program – 26 years  
Established in the summer of 1995.

Has spring cleaning uncovered items you no longer need or want? Then Women's Guild Spring rummage sale is the answer to your problem! Bring those items to the church by May 11th and they'll be included in the sale May 12th and 13th. Of course, we'll need lots of help from everyone to set up and work the sale so see Susan Muskopf to volunteer. Proceeds are used for the benevolent missions the Guild donates to.



## Associate Pastor's Message

**Rev. Emily Howard**

Dear Church,

May is mental health awareness month and in my ministry with you in worship, I again will address this important topic. Too many of us have struggled in our family, friends, community, and selves, with stigma against mental health challenges. In my time with Trinity UCC, I found that this congregation is already seeded with the possibility of expressing a commitment to mental health ministry and advocacy. I am looking to gather a group that will nurture and “pollinate” those seeds with our stories, our ideas, and our commitments toward naming what God does when the stigma is challenged and our full selves are embraced.

The UCC calls the program of mental health advocacy and awareness, being a “WISE” congregation for mental health. The program is similar to becoming Open and Affirming. In the program, it takes guidance from the UCC, with a ministry from the national office, to inform our work and support our efforts. In these conversations we must include the experience in our church of members with mental health struggles (me and you!) and also the professionals who give their life's work to helping others (have you met one of our several members in the social work and helping professions? how about the many community resources in Wayne County?). Both points of view will be included at the table in becoming WISE.

Are we ready to journey toward this together? Let's talk. In my sermon on Mental Health Sunday, I will address and invite you to the conversation. Let's begin where we are, humbly, and receive the gift of mental health ministry. It is a ministry in awe of the beauty of our whole selves.

Sincerely, in faith,  
Emily

The Women's Guild will be having an end of our year lunch May 17th. We'll be doing a “Show and Tell” about what we did during covid, so be prepared to tell about your covid down time and bring an item to show- Did you quilt? Read a really good book? Binge watch a TV series? Learn a new skill? Travel? Join us at noon on May 17th at Des Dutch Essenhaus in Shreve to share our covid experiences and have fellowship. If you think you are interested in attending, let Dee Carter know so we can give a count for reservations. All women of Trinity are welcome.



## TRINITY CLIMATE CRISIS ARTICLE FOR MAY 2022



As a retired Registered Nurse, I have always been interested in the field of Preventive Medicine and anything which affects the health of people, all God's creatures, and the health of our Planet, Earth. What do you think people have in common with the sea creatures, which is affecting the health of both? If you answered:

Climate Change, you would be correct, but on a more specific item, we are both ingesting "microplastic", a term coined by a research scientist back in 2004, to describe small bits of plastic found on beaches and in waterways. The very smallest particles are referred to as "nanoplastic". Lest you think this plastic is just found in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, micro & nanoplastic has been found in the Great Lakes, including Lake Erie, basically, all waterways.

These plastic particles also carry toxic chemicals, which are linked to cancers, reproductive problems, metabolic disorders, autoimmune diseases, malnutrition, and other health issues-- in both people and other animals. In late 2020, a group of Italian scientists revealed they had found blue, red, orange and pink dyed plastic particles in placenta tissue samples---suggesting they were shed from common plastic items like cosmetics and personal care products. It seems at least some plastic particles circulate in the human bloodstream, after being ingested or inhaled. Just this past week, I saw a photo online, showing tiny colored particles of plastic, which doctors had removed from the base of a person's lung.

Getting closer to home, many tea companies package their products in tea bags made from plastic--either nylon, a synthetic thermoplastic polymer or polyethylene terephthalate (PET). In Sept. 2019, researchers at McGill University, Montreal, Canada, found that a single one of these tea bags releases more than 11 billion microplastic and 3 billion nanoplastic particles when steeped in boiling water. In addition to these nylon & PET plastic tea bags, the majority of paper tea bags also contain plastic fibers used in the sealant, as well as, a chemical called epichlorohydrin, which is used to keep the bags from breaking. It will leach out when exposed to hot water, & is a potential carcinogen & reproductive toxin. In addition to requesting that tea companies transition to plastic-free packaging, it is suggested that tea lovers skip single-use tea bags in favor of organic loose leaf teas, using a glass, metal or ceramic strainer or to brew a pot of tea, use a stainless steel tea ball.

An excellent source of information on the Plastic Pollution problem is the 2021 book: "THICKER THAN WATER: The Quest For Solutions to The Plastic Crisis, by Erica Cirino. Online, the site, [www.BeyondPlastics.org](http://www.BeyondPlastics.org), a project based at Bennington College, is where I found the tea bag information. They have a place where you can add your name & make a comment to send to the many tea companies, about your concern over their bags & packaging. Phone numbers for a few: Bigelow 1,-888-244-3569, Lipton 1-888-547-8668, Celestial Seasonings 1-800-351-8175, Twinings 1-800-803-6695, Red Rose 1.-877-248-2477.

Carol Eberhart, for the Climate Crisis Committee April 14,2022.

## ***May Faith Formation Opportunities***

Happy Easter Season everyone! I know, many of you are saying Easter is over, but technically in the life of the church, Easter Season doesn't end until Pentecost, which is June 5<sup>th</sup>. So, happy Easter! Now, with that in mind, I was reading something the other day that was talking about how many people "give up" something during the season of Lent, which I do, but never succeed. It then made me think about how we could remember to celebrate Easter the entire season. Maybe by reading devotionals or special books; maybe by gathering in small groups for studying something together; going for walks and enjoying God in nature; finding ways to share God's love with others...I am sure many of you have ideas coming to mind. So, during this Easter Season, I invite you to continue to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the things he teaches us.

All singers are invited to join me in the Chapel on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 to learn an easy anthem to sing together during worship that day.

Let's have an ***Ascension Day Party!*** *On Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup>, let's gather at 7:00pm at Oak Hill Park to celebrate. Please bring a blanket or chair, a bell (if you have one) and even a friend, if you wish. Worship, music and dessert will be shared during this time. Hope to see you there!*

Faith Formation study opportunities:

***An Altar in the World: a Geography of Faith*** *Sundays at 9:15-10:15 open to all ages gathering in the Parlor.*

***The Salvation of Doctor Who: a Small Group Study Connecting Christ and Culture*** *If you are interested in this study, let me know so we can discuss when works best to do this (daytime, evening, etc.)*

You are invited to attend: Qi Gong at 10:00 on Mondays and Wellness Group at 10:30 in the Parlor. Yoga on Tuesdays at 10:00 and Thursdays at 6:00 in the Chapel. Soup, Scripture and Conversation at Noon on Tuesdays in the Parlor. C.A.T. is open to ages 5- 8<sup>th</sup> grade on Wednesdays anytime after 4:30 until 7:00.

Scripture of the month: **Psalm 96: 11-12:** Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

Peace to all. Suzanne Feltner, Director of Christian Education and Arts

# Trinity United Church of Christ

*"Come join us!"*



10:30 Sunday mornings worship



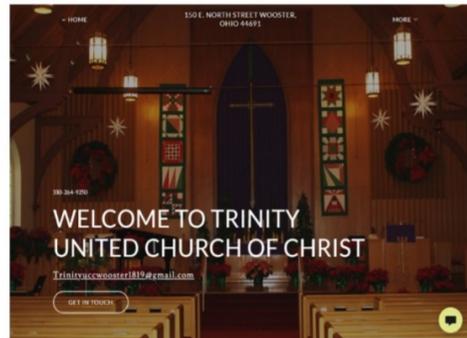
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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/trinityuccwooster](https://www.facebook.com/trinityuccwooster)



Follow the Prayer and Communion link on the home page of our website: [www.trinityucc.org](http://www.trinityucc.org)



Website: [www.trinityucc.org](http://www.trinityucc.org)

## Senior Birthdays

1st Linda Ditzler	15th Linda Heaslet
3rd Patti French	18th Ray Leisy
7th Hazel Starr	21st Mary Arnold
8th Lorene Donelson	21st Joan Cooper
11th John Ladrach	23rd Donna Brown
11th Fred Mathys	28th Jon Vizzo
14th John Muskopf	29th Margo Stafford

On October 9th- 15th of 2022, Trinity UCC will be taking a mission trip group down to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. If you are interested in going on this trip speak with the trip coordinator Jim Shoots.  
(937-795-7042)



**Trinity United Church of Christ**  
*"Embracing and Celebrating God's Love"*  
150 East North Street  
Wooster, OH 44691-4350

Office Hours: M-F 9:00a - 5:00p  
Phone (330) 264-9250  
Fax (330) 264-0380  
Email: trinityuccwooster1819@gmail.com  
Website: www.trinityucc.org



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### **Church Staff**

**Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin**, *Senior Minister*

**Rev. Emily Howard** - *Associate Pastor*

**Jamie Gilmore** *Administrative Coordinator/Secretary*

**Suzanne Feltner**, *Director of Christian Education and Arts*

**Luke Tegtmeier**, *Organist*

**Phil Starr**, *Business Manager*

**Zreston Costello**, *Multimedia Administrative Assistant*

**Alyssa Kamp**, *Custodian*

*Nursery Staff include:*

**Yulia Allison**



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Visit us online at  
[www.trinityucc.org](http://www.trinityucc.org)



[www.youtube.com/trinityuccwooster](http://www.youtube.com/trinityuccwooster)



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