

November
Topics 2020

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
---1 Thessalonians 5:18

Trinity Friends,

How can I be in the middle of writing a Topics newsletter article about Thanksgiving already! Fall colors are here. Sometimes, I tell myself that I should be glad that this COVID time is going so fast. Yet another part of me knows that we may not even be half way through this time of isolation and caution. I am sure that we will not “get back to normal” until there is a vaccine and that the vaccine will be distributed to everyone. This morning I heard that Wayne County and Ohio had the highest number of new cases since March when we first entered into this protocol.

Holidays will be different this year. Many long standing Trinity traditions are falling as time goes on; Easter, Graduations, Shrimp Boil, Summer, VBS, Youth Mission Trip, Back Bay Mission Trip, Wayne County Fair, Sauerkraut Supper. Thursday brings us to the annual Stewardship Campaign which will conclude on November 14th. Totenfest is Nov. 15. Please let us know if you want someone special recognized during that ceremony.

In my home church in Henrietta, Ohio, we always presented our offerings with the song, “Praise God from whom all blessings flow.” A reminder to us to look at our lives and live gratefully for the many things that God has given us. My mother used to have a big wicker Cornucopia with plastic fruits glued to the inside. It was part of the table centerpiece. I used to think that the Pilgrims must have had strange table habits. Through the years, and my need to teach people about religious images, I came to appreciate the idea that the cornucopia was a way of experiencing the endless gifts that flow from God’s hand.

If you read the introductions to his letters carefully, you’ll find that Paul’s gratitude can be divided into six categories.

1. He was thankful for their faith. (Romans, Ephesians, Colossians, 1, 2 Thessalonians, Philemon).
2. He was thankful for their love. (Ephesians, Colossians, 1, 2 Thessalonians, Philemon).
3. He was thankful for their perseverance. (1, 2 Thessalonians).
4. He was thankful for their spiritual gifts. (1 Corinthians).
5. He was thankful for their partnership in the gospel. (Philippians).
6. He was thankful for their history of mutual affection. (2 Timothy).

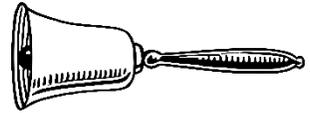
May God send a cornucopia of good things your way this Holiday Season.

Your Partner in Christ’s ministry,
Dr. Franklin



“Talk Together Tuesdays” at 12 Noon, will now be held in Trinity’s Parlor. Feel free to bring your lunch to eat, while we share scripture and conversation. Please use the front doors when entering the church.

Trinity’s Handbell Choir will rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7:30- 8:15 in Fellowship Hall.



“Unraveled” Bible Study will continue to be held on Thursdays at 2:00, but now will be held in Trinity’s Chapel.



Fourth Sunday Drum Circle will be held on November 22nd at 4:00 in Trinity’s Fellowship Hall. Participants will be asked to wear a mask. Please enter the church through the front doors.

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>November 1st</u>	<i>Scripture:</i> Joshua 3:7-17 <i>Sermon:</i> “Getting your feet wet” Holy Communion Sunday	Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin
<u>November 8th</u>	<i>Scripture:</i> Joshua 24:1-25 <i>Sermon:</i> “Choose this day” Stewardship Sunday	Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin
<u>November 15th</u>	<i>Scripture:</i> Ephesians 1:15-23, Philippians 1:21, Psalm 100 <i>Sermon:</i> “God’s Love Endures Forever” Totenfest Sunday	
<u>November 22nd</u>	<i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 25-14-30 <i>Sermon:</i> “Bury it deep or let it out” Thanksgiving Sunday	Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin
<u>November 29th</u>	<i>First Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Scripture:</i> Psalm 90	Emily Howard leading worship

FINANCIAL POSITION - September 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	\$ 14,699	\$ 47,830	\$152,679	\$230,963	\$ 244,320
Expenses	\$ 25,336	\$ 30,021	\$225,330	\$275,223	\$ 254,343
Net	\$ (10,637)	\$ (17,809)	\$(72,651)	\$(44,260)	\$(10,023)

Comments: During September income was under expectations as we had budgeted to receive some of our annual contributor's donations, which didn't happen. We still anticipate receiving these donations before the end of 2020. On the expense side, we were over-budget for building maintenance by \$2k as we had our annual elevator tests, repaired one of our air conditioners and our semi-annual fire suppression test in the kitchen. Even with the building closed we still have to have our testing done.

Building Repair Fund Balance: \$ -(35,501)

Building Repair Fund Balance

The invoice for the Bell Tower masonry repairs was paid \$26,654.



Senior Birthdays

- 1st Annabelle Ogden
- 5th Sharen Brigham
- 6th Rozella Stinebring
- 10th Bob Chizmadia
- 14th Chris Gehring
- 15th Pat Gerber
- 17th Irene Winner
- 21st Margie Wilson
- 22nd Joan Buehler



Trinity's 2021 Stewardship Campaign "Here comes the Sun." This picture was taken from the Posada in Tijuana on our March 2020 Esperanza mission trip. Even through the clouds of rain and the looming pandemic, the sun was trying to come through. Join us at Trinity as we celebrate Stewardship Sunday on November 8, 2020. Your generosity and continued support will help us to be the "Sun" that shines bright in downtown Wooster.



Savor the Season

“Nothing ever has been said about God that already hasn’t been said better by the wind in the pine trees.”

That wonderful statement about God and nature was written by Thomas Merton, theologian and Trappist monk. In the fall, I feel that the beauty of autumn color also joins the wind in the pine trees in giving testimony to God.

This has been an unusually brilliant fall, a truly classic autumn with crisp, cool weather, brilliant sunshine and bold blue skies. Some years we go very quickly from the colorful blooms of late summer to fields of tired plants that have gone to seed. Mild temperatures this year have allowed us to enjoy goldenrod and other meadow flowers to the fullest extent of their bloom.

At a time when so much uncertainty and turmoil surround us, the changing seasons provide a touchpoint of stability and comfort. The steady transformation of summer into fall doesn’t require our debate, consent or input. It just magnificently happens as maple and beech trees turn golden and even poison ivy glows with orange, yellow or red leaves.

It’s easy to be busy -- a little harder to stop and enjoy. Fall, especially this year, is an ideal time to stop and enjoy the creation that is unfolding all around us.

--Herb Broda

On Sunday, November 15, 2020, trinity will include the celebration of Totenfest during our virtual worship service. At Totenfest, we recognize those members and friends who have left us in death and have passed on to God’s Ethereal Realm. Those listed below will be recognized and remembered at our virtual service.

JoAnne Spittler	Peggy Franks	David Briggs	Terry Shank
Helen Yeagley	Christina Bullard	Alice Keen	Michael Hall
Shawn Gresh	Wendy Hammond	Shirley Mcdonald	Charles Griffith
Violette Fuller	David Orr	Dixie Etwiler	William Johnson
George Robidou	Carolyn Arvay		

Please contact the church office by phone at 330-264-9250 or via email at trinityuccwooster1819@gmail.com if you wish to have someone recognized on Totenfest Sunday.

Friends in Christ,

Trinity's "Women of the Bible" study group recently rediscovered Mary's joy at saying YES to God and her song of liberation touched our hearts. "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever (Luke 1:46-55, NRSV)."

This is Mary's song of response following God's announcement that Christ would be born in her. The Advent of Christ is a season of anticipation and celebration of God's goodness. How we celebrate this year may feel unique; I trust our hearts remain as open and willing to receive Christ as in every year - and maybe, due to Covid, we are even more mindful of our need for Christ.

The season of Advent brings opportunities to celebrate Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love. To that end, please join me in fellowship on Zoom during Advent each Sunday at noon for a time of community and conversation based on the Advent theme of the day. I will share a simple soup and bread recipe in our Friday e-news and, yes, we are invited to eat "together"! Let's try something new in our church's Zoom Room!

Photo Challenges have been a highlight of worship in Covid time. So, for Advent, I invite you to send a photo interpreting that week's Advent theme for us. On November 29, the first week of Advent, send a photo for HOPE. You can take photos of your family at home... of your yard... of nature... of your Christmas decorations... let your creativity soar! Send pictures of HOPE to trinityuccwooster1819@gmail.com! Please send photos by noon on Wednesday to be featured that week. The weeks of Advent include HOPE on 11/29, PEACE on 12/6, LOVE on 12/13, and JOY on 12/20. We will conclude with a photo challenge celebrating the LIGHT of Christ in the Christmas season.

We respond to Mary's song by praying with each other - God, we joyfully say YES to your presence in us, through us, and among us! Amen.

Hopeful with you,

Pastor Emily



MAKE WISHES COME TRUE



Dear Friends,

The holidays are coming full speed ahead. Soon it will be **CHRISTMAS!**

You have been very generous in the past years sponsoring the area children involved with Children's Services. I, again, am asking your continued support.

I know many of you look forward to going to the notebook in the narthex and choosing the gifts to buy for the boys and girls listed- usually 10-12 children. Then, comes the fun part; shopping and wrapping the gifts and bringing them to the church for delivery. I'm right there with you- I love to shop!!

BUT, for this year only, the program will take on a different look to keep everyone safe.

There are two ways to help sponsor the 200 + children ranging in age from newborn to 18.

PLEASE consider one of the following: a gift card or a monetary donation.

1. Monetary donations will be used to purchase gifts from Toyrifix. Please make your check payable to "Wayne County Children Services" and in the memo space "Christmas MAW".
2. Gift cards to one of the following places in either a \$25 or \$50 increment.
Visa/Mastercard Gift Card Amazon Walmart Target Gamestop

Please include your name and Trinity UCC on the envelope. A tax receipt will be issued by January 31, 2021.

Where do I take the donation, you might be asking? Well, we have options for that, too.

1. You may bring them to the church, and they will be placed in a locked box and saved for delivery.
2. Or, you can take them to Children Services and there will be a drop box outside the building or you can take them inside to the reception window.
3. Or, you can contact me and I'll make arrangements to meet you.

ALL DONATIONS ARE NEEDED BY DECEMBER 4, 2020

Thank you so much for your generosity and support- It's all about the kids!

Let's make their wishes come true!

Happy Holidays!
Sandy Wenger



From the Trinity Climate Crisis Committee for November:

Folliott Sanford Pierpoint wrote the hymn "For the Beauty of the Earth" one day in the late Spring of 1864, near his native city of Bath, England, when violets and primroses were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice. He climbed up a hill and sat down to rest and meditate. The panorama before him inspired him to write these beautiful lines.

*For the Beauty of the Earth, For the Beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies
For the beauty of each hour Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, Sun and moon and stars of light,
For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony Linking sense to sound and sight,
For the joy of human love, Brother, sister parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.*

In this month of November, when we traditionally celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday, perhaps we can reflect upon the words and spirit of this hymn. Giving thanks for the environment that surrounds us, the precious environment that we want to preserve for future generations.

When I look at the stars and planets through one of Ed's telescopes, I can't help but remember that picture of the Earth, that was taken by the Voyager space probe from beyond the major planets, Earth as a small blue dot. But human life on that 'pale blue dot' is dependent on human actions. Our scientists tell us that unless we take rapid action to reduce greenhouse gasses and other pollutants, much of the earth will become too hostile for human life. When they say the threat is "existential", they mean the very existence of human life as we know it may end.

We give thanks for the blessings of this earth. But we are stewards (caretakers), not its owners. Ours to care for and enjoy, but not to squander.

As we lift our praises of thanksgiving, let us take action to nourish and repair this 'blue dot'. If we all do whatever we can, we CAN make a difference--For The Beauty of the Earth!

Green Hint: Eliminate Food Waste.

Food waste in the US occurs mostly in stores and at home--either because it spoils on the store shelf or before we can eat it.

According to an NRDC (National Resources Defense Council) study, Americans throw away up 40% of the food they buy. We can combat food waste by shopping for what is needed, eating leftovers, composting scraps, and donating to food banks. It is estimated that curbing food waste could avoid a whopping 70.5 gigatons of CO2 (carbon dioxide). This is something we can all participate in, being especially mindful of those in our community who may not have enough to eat.

Carol & Ed Eberhart

Trinity Climate Crisis Committee



Trinity United Church of Christ
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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



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Visit us online at
www.trinityucc.org



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