

October

October
Topics 2020

Trinity Friends,

As I write this, in a few days it will already be fall. We enjoy the final days of summer this weekend. We can't open up for worship in the sanctuary or any face to face meetings until we have two consecutive weeks of declining cases and that hasn't happened yet.

Regrettably, we will have to cancel the Sauerkraut Supper this year. It seems strange not to attend the Wayne County Fair. We will observe Totenfest, Memorial Sunday, virtually this year on November 15th. We were able to video Kaitlin Thompson, Global Mission Intern to the Dominican Republic and we will feature her on October 4th, World Communion Sunday.

I am hopeful for the Christmas Season, but it looks like things will not be "normal" until we have a safe, effective vaccine. We pray for a vaccine and for those who are working on one. We are looking at ways to gather creatively and I hope that you go to our website for Church activities as they happen. When we decide to have worship, our numbers will be limited and safe practice restrictions will be in place.

Most churches that have opened for worship have closed down again due to surges in cases and attendance was sparse. It was good to see everyone at Christmas Run Park last month for outdoor worship. We do have those types of opportunities available as well as virtual options for worship and prayer.

The history of the people of Israel gives people of all times a model for how to deal with good times and bad. During their time of exile in Babylon, they longed to return to their homeland and worship at sacred sites. Our young people will have stories to tell of this pandemic to their children and Grandchildren. Some are getting married, some are advancing through school, some are delaying school, and others are missing daily routines that are no longer possible. We will remember this time of exile.

Many people tell me that they continue their prayers for you and for all of us. Keep the world and the nation in prayer during these stressful days. When we return as it was for the people of Israel when they returned, much rebuilding work will be done. On the journey together in a time of challenge and opportunity. God is good all the time.

Your Partner in
Christ's Ministry,

Dr. Franklin





“Talk Together Tuesdays” Please join us at noon on Tuesdays for a time of scripture, prayer and fellowship. Feel free to bring your lunch, if you wish. Please, dress for the weather, since this is held outdoors at Christmas Run Park, upper level pavilion. Hope to see you there!

Fourth Sunday Drum Circle and Bonfire 4:00pm on October 25th at Feltner home, 11434 Friendsville Rd, Creston. We will be enjoying nature while worshipping God through drumming, scripture and fellowship. All are welcome!



Trinity Faith Project for October- *What is your favorite Bible story and why?* Please send your response to: trinityuccmusic@gmail.com or call the church.



The **“Unraveled” Faith Formation** series will continue to be held on **Thursdays** at 2:00 at Christmas Run Upper Level Park, or at 7:00 pm on Zoom. This series uses artwork, music and different scripture versions to focus on people in the Bible, who suffered through some unraveling times, and how God helped them through.



If you are interested in joining a Morning Bells Choir on Mondays at 11:00, please contact Suzanne at the church or trinityuccmusic@gmail.com.

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>October 4th</u>	<i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 21:33-46 <i>Kaitlin Thompson, Dominican Republic Global Mission Worker</i> Holy Communion Sunday	Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin
<u>October 11th</u>	<i>Scripture:</i> Philippians 4:1-13 <i>Sermon:</i> “My Joy, My Crown”	Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin
<u>October 18th</u>	<i>Scripture:</i> Matthew 22:15-22 <i>Sermon:</i> “Imperial Taxes”	Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin
<u>October 25th</u>	<i>Scripture:</i> Deuteronomy 34:1-12 <i>Sermon:</i> “Moses’ Legacy” ²	Emily Howard preaching

FINANCIAL POSITION - August 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	\$ 19,377	\$ 28,972	\$137,979	\$183,134	\$ 175,510
Expenses	\$ 21,328	\$ 28,314	\$199,994	\$245,202	\$ 221,758
Net	\$ (1,951)	\$ (685)	\$(62,015)	\$(62,068)	\$(46,248)

Comments: We continue to operate like we have since the pandemic hit. Our personnel and utilities continue to run under budget due to reduced programming.. The only over-budge item this month was our building maintenance. Even with the pandemic we have building issues that need to be taken care of: backflow test, grease trap cleanout and boiler certifications.

We continue to be Thankful that our members and friends continue to donate to Trinity's mission. Through eight months we continue to operate near our budgeted deficit level. We hope we can continue to receive strong donations so we can balance our general operating fund by year end.

Building Repair Fund Balance: \$ -(10,765)

Average weekly on-line worship reviews: 217241.

Building Repair Fund Balance

The invoice for the Bell Tower masonry repairs is a little over \$26,000. We will pay that in September. This is the last major expense for our 200th Anniversary Celebration projects.

Senior Birthdays

1st Jannette Miller
8th Louie Carter
17th Janet Burkhart
25th Joyce Swinehart
27th Elaine Reed
27th Judy Snyder
28th Jeff Aultz

Youth Birthdays

4th Benji Wright
19th Braylon Wenger



Dear Trinity UCC,

Thank you so much for your generous gift to the life Enrichment fund! We need these gifts now more than ever as we try to keep our residents engaged during Covid19-Finding ways to allow family and friends to visit (electronically/ or in person) has been a huge challenge. Your gift is greatly appreciated!

Debbie - United Church Homes.



Dear Friends,

How is it with your soul? Mine has been prayerfully hopeful as I witness to justice in our community; so, in a spirit of ongoing justice work, I share in faith a perspective I believe our congregation must hear. Daniel Kirk, Trinity UCC member, wrote the powerful message below as his soul was stirred in response to the murder of Ahmaud Arbery on February 23, 2020. My own spirit laments and grieves the death toll of racism while finding prayerful hope here in this faith community. Thank you, Daniel, for allowing the republishing of your words.

Daniel writes, "As a black man who walks to work, walks for fun, and jogs for exercise, watching the video of [#AhmaudArbery](#) is terrifying. I often wonder what the people who see me think. I know I mean no harm and that I don't wish to even draw their attention, but something about that video is striking. Maybe it's the angst, or the violence, or even just the familiarity with being a black man on a jog. Most days my biggest fear is dodging traffic. But some days it's a different fear. The fear that the freedom to move, to stay in shape, to clear your mind can be deadly. Not for all of us, but for some of us.

The men who committed this act say that Ahmaud looked like a suspected burglar. Yet, they are no officers of the law, no citizen deputized to make arrests, and yet they felt it was their duty to stop him and detain him. And when he refused, they killed him for resisting.

I have seen comments from people who say he should have complied and waiting for the police to sort out the confusion. But if two armed men stop you on the street and say the police are coming or that they plan to take you to the police, are you likely to believe the police will help you out. I saw a quote recently, and I can't remember it's origin, that said if someone comes to your door to have a conversation with a loaded firearm brandished, are you really having a conversation?

I guess I would close by saying, that sometimes being black is scary. You feel no different, you live your life without bringing harm to others, and at the end of the day your aim is to suck as much joy from your 24 hours as you can. But then an event takes that joy from you. I'm hundreds of miles from Ahmaud, and yet, I feel as close to him as my own family... who I plan to hug extra tight this evening."

If you, like many of us, feel a stirring call to faithful anti-racism, please consider attending the faith formation series, "Anti-Racist Faith," to be held over the next few weeks, as an opportunity to connect with one another here in our community. The program details are on page 6 of this issue. Christ is with us in our journey; and none of us walk alone.

With Faith and Hope,
Pastor Emily



From the Interfaith Climate Crisis Committee – Green Hints for October

Genesis 1:25-31 RSV-King James

“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the Earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the Earth.”

“Have many children and grow in number. Fill the earth and be its master. Rule over the fish in the sea and over the birds in the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.

I love autumn and it is a perfect time to get lost in the wonder, awe and appreciation for our world. We are all worried about what is happening to our Earth. Indeed, we are trying our best to keep our world as beautiful as God made it. Our intentions are good: we recycle, we turn off lights, our yards look messy but are full of life, we are awake and thinking about ways to decrease our carbon footprint. We educate ourselves and we pray.

We all know the Genesis story of creation and the seven days in which God determined how the Earth would be through many eons past and then what our sliver of geological time would also become with human life dominating the globe. To help make sense of our time and our place in this continuum I meditated on Genesis 1:25-31. All was well and made sense except for the words “subdue, dominium and master” these words immediately caused me to have pause. So, I looked up the etymology of the word dominion since this is the one that confuses me the most. Here is what I found: from the Latin “dominium” the source means “property” and “management”, from “dominus” we understand the meaning as “lord and master”, and finally from the base word “domus” we glean “house or household” Finding these explanations increased my understanding of the scripture. We do not own the Earth but rather live here as tenants or as grounds keepers, or even as the managers of a grand estate. We are tasked with conserving resources, keeping the air, water, and the fertile ground clean and beneficial for all. We are fulfilling God’s will to be guardians of our home and to honor the task given to us in Genesis.

Kevan has been using hymns as prayers in the Wednesday night Zoom prayer service. It is comforting to say the words we have often sung while together in our sanctuary. So, to find that comfort and support in our environmental struggles against global climate change I went to my collection of hymnals. In my childhood hymnal I found, “For the Beauty of the Earth” and “All Things Bright and Beautiful.” In our New Century Hymnal there is a whole section of hymns under Stewardship and Creation, starting on page 556 to 569. Praying with hymns to praise God and all of creation will raise our spirits. Knowing that as Christians our decisions are based on the word of God is comforting. We are given the support, the ethics and motivations to automatically make us stewards, caretakers and masters of our home. So, this Fall carry on your efforts in peace and have faith that there is much good yet to come for us and for the Earth.

Margaret Bourne

Interfaith Climate Crisis Committee

Turn Aside and Look



Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." – Exodus 3:3 (NRSV)

In the book of Exodus is the wonderful story of Moses and the burning bush. Although the story is powerfully symbolic on many levels, I'm drawn to the phrase, "I must turn aside at this great sight..."

Moses was saying that he needed to take the time to notice this miracle. He was willing to "turn aside" and look.

Although it won't officially be fall for a few weeks, there is no doubt that nature is headed in that direction. Fall is a time of many miracles.

Those goldenrod plants that have been green and growing quietly for months, are about to bloom and transform entire fields into lush waves of yellow. The plants have been here since spring, but they are ready now to dazzle us with their finery. But we have to turn aside...

Birds and butterflies will soon migrate thousands of miles with no map or GPS to guide them; hints of leaf coloration are just barely starting, but there are undeniable changes appearing on many trees. The miracle of fall color is poised to begin.

One little miracle of the pandemic has been the increased visitation to parks, nature centers and other outdoor venues. Although our culture doesn't emphasize taking the time to explore God's Creation, many have recently found the spiritual and physical renewal that nature can provide.

Hopefully increased nature visits will also be combined with a healthy dose of "turning aside". Stopping to admire the intricacy of goldenrod flowers or noticing that there are several varieties of the plant in the same area is "turning aside" to take a closer look - to drink in the wonder - to survey the Creator's handiwork.

--Herb Broda

Many Trinity UCC members have this year shown a faithful response to racist events with their presence, their voices, and their learning. If you are personally interested in developing an anti-racist commitment, and supporting each other in a faith that builds justice, please join us. We will discern and commit to action steps, collectively and individually, that support the UCC mission, "a just world for all."

October 12: Starting the Journey. Join Pastor Emily and Trinity members in seeking to practice anti-racism in life and the Christian faith. This session will be drawing from ideas written by Layla Saad in her book, "Me and White Supremacy."

October 26: Conscious Mission. Trinity Member Abby Reed shares her practice of anti-racist learning in global communities, drawing on her experience in Cambodia and volunteer trips taken with Heidelberg University.

November 12: Vision a Just World. Pastor Franklin will lead discussion on local community life through the lens of anti-racism. In the spirit of our Reformed faith, how are we called to change? At this session, we will close with worship and will name our commitments and steps toward putting anti-racism into action.

2020 Dark and Cold



This year has been a dark and cold period because of the pandemic. We, at Trinity, have tried to make the best of the situation. As we look forward to 2021 through our annual stewardship campaign, the song by the Beatles, "Here Comes the Sun" brightens our day looking forward. "I feel that ice is slowly melting," "it seems like years since it's been clear."

Join us as we move forward together!

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 Spitler	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.

Trinity United Church of Christ
"Embracing and Celebrating God's Love"
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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



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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.