



“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19

Trinity Friends,

I don't need to catalogue the challenges facing humanity in the world today. But we need reminding that most of the creative advances in history have come after a time of upheaval and struggle. One could site many historical and biblical stories about new life being found in the least likely places. From the story of the Israelite Exodus from Egypt, to Jacob wrestling with an angel, to Jesus in the wilderness and ultimately the cross are centerpieces of our faith. Religion was born in a cave. Our ancestor's tens of thousands of years ago made their spiritual journeys in caves. Their sacred sanctuaries and places of ritual are all that remain of their culture because it was so central to their understanding of the world. Away from the dangers of primitive life, it was in the cave, that they found their calling, their mission and their connection to the ultimate power of the Universe.

Could 1 Kings 19 be a remnant of these ancient prayer vigils? Maybe these ancient stories can remind us of a part of our nature that has been neglected and often forgotten in the headlong rush of the world. There is a great deal of earthquake, wind and fire in our world today. Perhaps too much for us to comprehend. We hope and pray for better days when all people of the world will live in equality and peace. I always wonder what ancient Israelite prophets were really doing. They often say “I am all alone.” Social media only puts a bandage on our loneliness.

Throughout time, people have longed to connect with God. Written in the aftermath of the Civil War, in 1872, the hymn "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" is a hymn written by American Quaker poet John Greenleaf Whittier. Whittier ends by describing how we connect with God and others as practiced by Quakers: Seeking lives dedicated to doing God's will, seeking silence and selflessness in order to hear the "still, small voice", described in I Kings 19:11-13 as the authentic voice of God, rather than earthquake, wind or fire.

“Dear God, embracing humankind, forgive our foolish ways; Reclothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives your service find, in deeper reverence, praise. Jesus met you prayerfully, the silence of eternity, interpreted by love. Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm.” Perhaps this is also an appropriate prayer for 2022.

You are Partners in Christ's Ministry,

Dr. Franklin

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE 2022

10:30am

September 4 “Labor Day weekend; Who’s the boss?” Luke 14:25-33

September 11 “Lost and Found” Luke 15:1-10

September 18 Just Peace Sunday Rev. Emily Howard
Luke 16:1-18 Ben Lindeman Baptism

September 25 “You didn’t even notice me!?!?” Luke 16:19-31

Men’s Breakfast is Starting
Again on Saturday Sept. 24th at
8am at Greenleaf .



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.



Financial Position July, 2022

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 | \$25,946 | \$16,748 | \$115,536 | \$149,729 | \$152,648 |
| Expenses | <u>\$26,552</u> | <u>\$28,960</u> | <u>\$194,814</u> | <u>\$217,775</u> | <u>\$182,512</u> |
| Net | (\$607) | (\$12,212) | (\$79,278) | (\$68,045) | (\$29,864) |

Comments:

We basically operated at break even for July. On the income side, we received a few of our annual contributor’s donations. In addition, we received donations from our two North Street Mission groups that visited. On the expense side, there were no extra ordinary empenses.

Building Repair Fund Balance: - (9,005)

BREAKFAST PROGRAM BALANCE: \$28,423

Trinity Breakfast program – 27 years

Established in the summer of 1995.

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Trinity UCC will hold its NIN offering on World Communion Sunday, October 2, 2022.



Associate Pastor's Message

"Back to Normal? No, forward to weird!"

Dear Trinitarians,

This fall, we might hear or feel the expectation mounting: Now that COVID has declined, can we go "back to normal"? We want to rewind the clock to pre-covid... only to realize, uh oh, we aren't the same people we were back then! I challenge the expectation in my own mind when I hear it - that anyone will be "normal." By now I suppose you know, I don't consider myself "normal," and I don't really know what normal means! I don't see "normal" as a Biblical standard of faith. When we say "normal" in our community, we often mean white, middle class, cisgender, heterosexual, and on and on. The truth is, that the common life of our world, our interdependent community, depends on people who are anything but "normal." In fact, God's eye is usually trained directly on those people who society shuts out of "the norm." Our theology at Trinity UCC shows this - we notice God shows up beyond the "normal."

I hear in my own need for "normalcy," a desire for a spiritual centeredness that goes beyond anything that can shake it. The only place to find that is in a relationship with God. So, I do not believe in normal. I believe in being strategically, specifically, and especially, God's people, made weird. Made perfectly weird. Made strange on purpose - set apart to serve. Being weird is Biblical. Our Covenant faith began in times like these - when weirdos set out leaving home to become a great nation (Abraham and Sarah), when a wild man crafted an ark to save creation (Noah!), and eventually when people followed the weirdest guy of all time who saves us still - Jesus, the Christ. Every one of them relied on a living God to fulfill the service they are called to. No, I am not normal, and chances are you aren't either. We are allowed and encouraged to be not normal here. Let's be God's chosen weirdos. I am sure we are changing the world.

In love,
Rev. Emily Howard
Associate Pastor

Donna and Roy Brown would like to thank everyone who have sent cards and prayers during Roy's present illness. They both appreciate it and feel very comforted by the support from the church community.

The Shrimp Boil Fundraiser for Back Bay Mission will be September 17th from 5-7pm. Tickets are now available for purchase after worship or in the Church office. There will also be a Silent Auction during the Shrimp Boil. If you would like to donate items to sell in the Silent Auction you may drop them off at the Church office.



Climate Crisis Article for September 2022

This summer seems to be harbinger of even more hot, stormy and climate change-driven weather to come. The devastation in my own front yard from a 120 year old oak being blown over makes me realize how quickly the earth can change, and my own loss is minor compared to what other people are facing. These impacts are not just local. All over the world the earth is drying up, burning, or drowning. We have all heard the reports. Now there is no question that the “Inconvenient truth” is here. Our options are narrowing as we run out of time. The next election cycle is crucial for how our future plays out. One positive action we can take is to vote for local, state, and federal officials who are not climate change deniers or who think we can’t afford to worry about the environmental because of financial reasons. As my husband Dan often says, “We’ve swept these costs under the rug for decades, and now we’re having trouble even walking across the room.” We desperately need leaders who are convinced of the science and are willing to work for solutions, to switch to sustainable energy and to lower carbon emissions on a massive scale. Please talk to your neighbors, friends, and relatives this Fall to open their minds to the one thing, the most important thing, the thing above all other issues we need to concentrate our voting power on —and that is the future of our planet.

Thanks to all those who contributed to the bottle cap collection drive to help create recycled plastic benches for the Wilderness Center. Recently I took all the bags we collected to the Wilderness Center and spent an afternoon sorting and cleaning the contents. All our bags together weighed in at 30 pounds. In order to qualify for a designated bench, however, we needed to collect 100 pounds. Nonetheless, our contribution will go towards supporting the overall goal of adding sustainable benches to the trails at the Wilderness Center. We can still participate in future cap drives for things like picnic tables, walkways, and boardwalks. Again, thank you to all who contributed to this cause.

I would like to encourage anyone who feels moved to do more to help solve our environmental issues to join our Climate Crisis Committee at Trinity. We need more members—more voices—so that we can do more outreach, have more programs, and combine our efforts with other groups to spread our message to the Wooster and Wayne County community. I leave you with these thoughts.

“Like music and art, love of nature is a common language that can transcend political or social boundaries.”

—Jimmy Carter

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

—Margaret Mead

Margaret Bourne – for the Trinity Climate Crisis Committee

Faith Formation and Arts at Trinity

Hard to believe that September is here already: school and football season, fair season, apple season, cooler weather and a time to look into gathering at church in different ways.

Here are some opportunities to gather with others, and to take care of our minds, bodies and spirits.

Yoga will be on Tuesdays at 10:00 and Thursdays at 6:00 in the Chapel for a few weeks. Thurs the 15th will be the last class before a few months break. (More information will be coming.)

Bible Study will be held in the Chapel on Tuesdays at 1:00. Hope to see you there. Speaking of Bible Studies, if you are interested in participating in one of these but prefer to do so via zoom, please let me know and we will organize a group.

C.A.T. (Creative Arts at Trinity) will begin again on Wednesday, the 7th. This is for children ages 5-8th grade and is held any time after 4:30 until 7:00. Supper is provided.

Confirmation classes will be beginning this month. More details soon.

Bell Choir rehearsals are on Thursdays at 7:00 in the Balcony. If you are interested in joining us, you are welcome!

We are beginning a **“Yoga Story Time”** led by Jen Seman on Fridays from 10:00-11:00 in the chapel. This is for babies to 5-year-olds (with an adult to help them out). This begins on September 9th. Please, if you know of families in your neighborhood who might be interested, let them know.

“Drop in and Sing” will be on Sunday, the 25th at 10:00. You are invited to join us in the chapel to learn an easy anthem and we will share it during the 10:30 Worship service. Anyone 6th grade and up is invited.

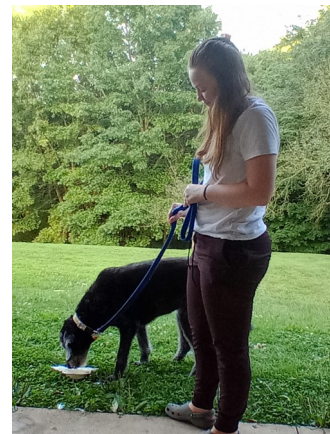
Trinity’s Wellness Program will be starting up again in October.

Faith Formation Groups will begin gathering on Sundays at 9:15 beginning October 2nd. More information to follow.

Scripture of the Month: *In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid.* Ps. 56:11

Hymn of the Month: *‘Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

Young Adults Ministry (YAHOOOS) meetings in September:
September 12, 7pm
September 26, 7pm
Interested? Contact Emily
at howardemilyr@gmail.com or 330-845-3129
Photo: Aubrey with new church friend, Fordy the pup





Trinity exists at the corner of North and Buckeye streets in downtown Wooster. Your continued support of our ministry is greatly appreciated!

Senior Birthdays

- 2nd Dee Dee Carlisle
- 4th Brian Questel
- 5th Don Hange
- 6th Bill Wertenberger
- 7th Gene Dettra
- 9th Cindy Henshaw
- 11th John Johnston
- 14th Pat Mairs
- 22nd Bruce Slater
- 24th Doug Anderson
- 29th Chuck Vizzo
- 29th Doug Henshaw
- 29th Mary Cornelius

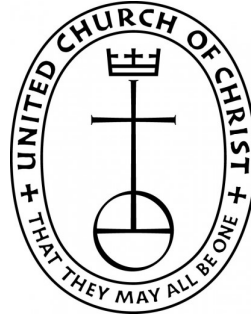


We have many options available to make donations to Trinity. One option is to make a donation online by reading this QR code. Then choose donation via Trinity's Vanco payment solution or PayPal . Many thanks for your support of Trinity UCC.



Trinity United Church of Christ
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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



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