



“It is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” Philippians 2:13

Trinity friends,

The Bible is an amazing resource in times of uncertainty. Let's not miss the forest for the trees though. The Bible accurately sets out the seasons of our lives. I see these patterns in the life of the world as well as in each individual life.

Our stories begin with the promise of blessing, then on to captivity, exodus, the Promised Land, exile and finally return. If I had to peg where most of our lives are in this cycle of life, I would say that most of us feel like we are in exile. One of the features of exile is that you don't know how long it will last. In life, we experience times of longing for things to be different. We remember good times past. We long for life to be predictable.

Heading into 2020, Trinity Staff had plans and we were on an upward course when everything was shut down.

A couple planning marriage delayed plans.

Seniors find themselves in a holding pattern regarding future plans.

North Street Mission had a full schedule for summer 2020. We hope that we can pick things up where we left off.

We were supposed to travel to a Conference in Germany this fall which has been changed to a virtual conference. Plans for a youth exchange were postponed.

Memorial services are viewed on Facebook live.

People are asking, “When are we going to be able to worship together again?” I know how that must feel to church members in exile who want to see one another face to face. It's hard to be the church in exile. At Trinity we are planning month to month, because that's all the further we can see at a time. We want to do more, to return to the “way” things used to be. Children returning to school this week renewed our hope for some normalcy. Yet things won't be the same. All of our plans are short term and we don't know what to expect when schools re-open. How long will that last? We are hardwired to ask the question; “What happens next!?!?”

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It's hard for us to learn to do new things. Yet, in the Bible, the chosen people learned some of their most valuable lessons in the wilderness, when things were shaken up and they had to reassess what is and isn't important. I hope that we use this time to consider what it teaches us.

During a time of exile for Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. he wrote his last book titled, "Where do we go from here?" Asking a question like that is a good place to start in the wilderness. I see some themes emerging as I listen to people speak about their experience of lessons learned during pandemic exile; the value of community, the need for the everyone to work together, gratitude and generosity, resolve to see this through and to stay faithful, and daily we are reminded of the "frailty of our existence on this earth". We are learning to navigate life in exile and hoping for the return.

As the Apostle, Paul said, "It is God at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure." Trusting God in the wilderness is a powerful theme in the Bible. We carry on with resolve to listen for the Spirit guiding us into a new way of life. Share what you have learned about the things that matter most. "Where do we go from here?"

Your partner in Christ's Ministry,
Dr. Franklin



Compassion Camp: Be Loved. Be Kind. Be You. This virtual camp for preschool through 6th graders (or older) will begin on Wednesday, September 9th and run for 5 Wednesdays. Each Wednesday, the new videos and lessons will come out. Please RSVP to Suzanne, so she can deliver the materials to the kids.

Worship Schedule

You may access our worship service on our YouTube and Website page listed on the back.

- September 6th *Scripture:* Romans 13:8-14
Sermon: "Tag! You're it!"
Holy Communion Sunday
- September 13th *Scripture:* Matthew 18:21-35
Sermon: "Mercy!"
- September 20th *Scripture:* Matthew 20:1-16, Philippians 1:21-30
Sermon: "First in my Heart"
- September 27th *Scripture:* Matthew 21:23-32, Exodus 17:1-7
Sermon: "Complaint Free World"

FINANCIAL POSITION - July 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 | \$ 16,407 | \$ 31,599 | \$118,603 | \$154,162 | \$ 141,976 |
| Expenses | \$ 24,025 | \$ 29,625 | \$156,947 | \$185,688 | \$ 193,945 |
| Net | \$ (6,858) | \$(10,050) | \$(54,751) | \$(63,125) | \$(51,969) |

Comments: For July both our income and expenses were under budget. We had budgeted to receive some of our annual contributor donations which didn't happen in July. We anticipate that we will receive the donations later this year. On the expense side our OCWM donation was \$2,500 under budget as it is based on our total income. Our personnel expenses continue to run under budget as our Administrative Assistant, Brandi went to half time and we have no organist or childcare workers.

Building Repair Fund Balance: \$ -(12,435)

Average weekly on-line worship reviews: 217241.

Building Repair Fund Balance

We still have to receive the invoice for the Bell Tower repairs. We are hopeful that this can be paid off by year end!

Senior Birthdays

2nd Dee Dee Carlisle
5th Don Hange
6th Bill Wertenberger
7th Gene Dettra
22nd Bruce Slater
24th Doug Anderson
27th Richard Zoss
29th Chuck Vizzo
29th Margery Cliffe
29th Mary Cornelius
30th Gary Arnold

Youth Birthdays

19th Carson Nebergall
19th Cooper Nebergall





New Member Care Group: Be a Caring Pen Pal

Do you feel the need to create fellowship while our faith family is apart? Are you someone with a heart for creativity and compassion? Are you interested in crafts, art, writing, and sharing your gifts in a caring community? Judy Montelione needs your help to support homebound members. Starting in September, this group will provide a monthly mailing to our church's shut-ins that shares joy, compassion, and fun. Contact Judy Montelione at jrmonte@sssnet.com or (phone). Your spirit's gifts will be a blessing to others.

When we were still able to gather together, some people asked about our experience with our rooftop solar electric system.

It has now been in operation for two full years and is covering most, but not all of our electrical needs. Since our house is all electric, this is our only household energy bill. We have two refrigerators, two water heaters, and a dehumidifier along with the usual range and microwave. Our heat and air conditioning are through an air-source heat pump.

During our first full year, we had 6 electric bills of between 11 and 14 dollars and a seventh of about \$17. Since we generate more than we use during the Spring to Fall season, the electric company gives us partial credit for those extra watts during the less-sunny seasons. Winter yield is much less, but still significant as long as the panels are not snow-covered. (By the way, those Summer electric bills are for line fees, not electricity.)

The initial outlay is substantial and the total time needed to recover the initial investment is around 9 or 10 years. After that, you are saving even more. And the panels are guaranteed for 25 years.

We are very happy with the system and would urge anyone who can to install such a system. Our carbon footprint has been decreased dramatically, so we feel that we are less of a drag on the environment.

Our system was installed by Smucker's Energy LLC. There is a co-op operating in our area and the Wayne County Sustainable Energy Network can also provide help (www.WCSEN.org.) Get estimates from more than one company, because systems and prices vary widely. We think there are still some tax incentives for solar installations. Contact for Smucker,s Energy---www.Smucker's Energy.com--- phone 330-600-4674, at Millersburg.

Ed Eberhart for the Trinity Climate Crisis Committee



“Talk Together Tuesdays” at noon in the upper level Christmas Run Park pavilion (near the YMCA). Please join us for a time of scripture, prayer and conversation.



Fourth Sunday Drum Circle

Sunday, September 27th at 7pm at Oak Hill Park. Join us for a time of worship in nature through drumming and scripture. Please bring your own chair and mask.

Percussion instruments will be provided.



A Spiritual Nest

Country roadsides and fields are blooming now with thousands of white flowers that look like giant snowflakes, or miniature lace doilies from an earlier time. Queen Anne's Lace, or wild carrot, is definitely the roadside plant of the month.

The delicate look of the circle of white flowers resembles a piece of fine lace embroidery. But a closer look reveals that the white disc is actually made up of dozens of clusters of tiny flowers that combine to give the lace-like effect.

The elegant white flowers definitely grab your attention, but this plant offers an unusual surprise at the end of its bloom. As the little flowers are pollinated, the entire disc folds upward and looks very much like a bird's nest, which is also another common name for this plant.

So what kinds of spiritual metaphors can come from a plant that many call an invasive weed? The delicate lacey flower disc certainly inspires thoughts of beauty, gentleness and serenity, but for me, the richest symbols are in the bird's nest that forms later.

The nest provides protection for the maturing seeds and also habitat and shelter for Insects. Ants hide in the nest during a storm and some tiny species of bees and spiders call the cup-like structures home. Once the seeds are mature the nest opens up and seeds are ready to leave and cling to anything that passes by.

We also need to feel connected to a spiritual "nest". A place where we can nurture our faith and find security during times of uncertainty.

But that nest should not be an anchor that keeps us locked in place; rather it should also be a vehicle for moving forward and sharing our faith through our actions. Just as the plant opens the nest and releases its seeds to cling to new possibilities, our spiritual nest is really a portal for providing hope, compassion and service to those around us.
--Herb Broda

September Study Group: Persistent Women of the Bible

Pastor Emily leading in the www.trinityucc.org "Zoom Room." Bring a cup of tea, and share a journey toward justice and joy. Come to one meeting, some, or all. How do the women of our faith experience resilience, speak out and speak up, and take action that changes history? Where did they show courage? What brings them hope and joy in the face of difficulty? Let's meet the powerful women of the Bible - whether you're encountering their stories for the fifth, seven-hundredth, or very first time. ALL genders are invited to join & encounter the liberating Word of God! Stories include: The hemorrhaging woman, Hannah, Esther, the Canaanite Woman, in both Hebrew Bible and New Testament. **Mondays, September 14, 21, 28 7:30-8:30pm**

Trinity is still coping with meeting the needs of it's members and Women's Guild is also on hiatus. The four co-chairs have decided to adopt a "wait and see" programming for whenever Trinity comes together again. We hope to complete the programming from the end of the 2019-2020 year and finish learning about liturgical colors. As the year goes on, we'll plan monthly meetings one or two months at a time and inform you of meeting times and activities in upcoming issues of Trinity Topics. We will be looking to the congregation to help, like maybe give book reviews, demonstrate a special talent or hobby, share a travel experience or recommend someone to give a presentation to us. Be safe and stay healthy in these trying times. As a good friend of mine says, "Trust in the Lord and it will all work out!".

-Susan Muskopf

Beloved Family of Faith:

In the tradition of my upbringing we sang a popular hymn called, "The Family of God." It said, "You will notice we say 'brother' and 'sister' 'round here, that's because we're a family, and these folks are so near. When one shares a heartache, we all shed the tears, and rejoice in each victory, in this family so dear."

In every family, there are sometimes seasons of life that separate us - for any number of reasons. But we are still family, no matter the time and space apart. The Bible includes many examples of this, including Joseph's brothers, Jacob and Esau, the prodigal son - long separation and joyful reunion. Trinity UCC has become a family of faith, and in family, even when we don't see each other face to face, we remain connected. In COVID19, there are members in this community I have not been able to greet, not been able to see, and you may like me, sometimes feel disconnected from one another - but we can trust that in Jesus, family is knit together intimately, no matter the time and space apart.

When we love one another, we have the opportunity to receive love, as well. In our fellowship, I am convinced this season is teaching the truth of what Paul testified: "I am convinced that neither death nor life, angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, (nor Covid 19!!!), will be able to separate us from the Love of God that is in Jesus Christ our Lord."

In Christ's Love,
Emily



What happens when our world falls apart? How do we press onward when our tightly-knit plans unravel into loose threads? In our unraveling, sometimes life surprises us with unexpected joy, love, and hope.

This faith formation series offers an opportunity to explore how God meets us in these spiraling and unraveling times, and offers us something new. Starting on **September 10th** you are invited to join me on **Thursdays at 2:00**, in the **Christmas Run Park Upper Level pavilion**, to be part of this class. Or join me in a virtual class, **Thursdays at 7:00pm**. Please RSVP to email: trinityuccmusic@gmail.com or call the church, to say which one you would like to attend, so I can get the materials to you.



Although our sanctuary is empty our church is still active! Join us for virtual worship each week on Wednesday evenings on Zoom and Sunday mornings on Youtube. If you would like to come and spend some quiet time in the sanctuary or have a meeting with Pastor Kevan or Pastor Emily or other staff members, simply call the church office (330-264-9250) and schedule an appointment. We'd love to see you!

This is the year! Let's get a **Trinity Handbell Choir** going. This is open to a limit of 6 ringers per group. We will safely physically distance and wear masks, as we learn a new way to worship our God through music. If you are interested, please let Suzanne know when works best for you: late mornings, afternoons or evenings. Then rehearsal times will be determined.



Trinity Faith Project for September What gives you hope? Call us at the church and let us know, or email: trinityuccmusic@gmail.com

If you haven't already, let us know your favorite hymn!

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Phil Starr, *Business Manager*

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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.