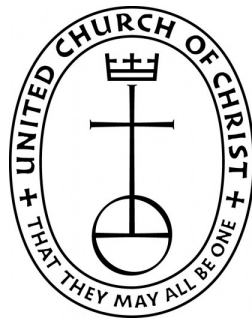


Trinity United Church of Christ
"Embracing and Celebrating God's Love"
150 East North Street
Wooster, OH 44691-4350

Office Hours: M-F 9:30a - 3:00p
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October 2026
Trinity UCC Topics

As I write this I am what seems a bit in-between. By the time you receive this letter I may or may not be retired once again and home with Vernice – or I may be in the office working on a sermon. In either case my time is likely short as your bridge pastor and I wanted to let you all know what an honor and privilege it has been to come and serve you these last few months.

The Trinity community had taken my family and me in so long ago. You touched, taught and nurtured me in ways I don't know others would have and there is no way I can repay that grace but to say thanks be to God for you and to emulate the way you have been with me in my how I have been with others.

It is funny though. You can't go back. I believe at some level that is what I thought I might be doing. Oh, I knew this was going to be different at many levels but still – there was something about this entire exercise that was warm and familiar as we came together again to be able to collectively sing God's praises in this sacred space. That was wonderful.

But it is, (or will be soon) time to go home. We both have to move on to whatever the future holds for us. It was a good time of reflection and striving for a bit of normalcy but you have much more to do literally for God's sake and I have Vernice, a nice recliner and a nasty dog to get home to.

Thank you and may God bless you for all you have been, all you continue to be, and whatever in the world God will call you to be in the future.

Rev. Ray



Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin, *Senior Minister*
Rev. Ray Deuring, *Bridge Minister*
Melinda Thomas, *Office Manager*
Joi Griffith, *Administrative Assistant*
Luke Tegtmeier, *Organist /Choir Director*
Phil Starr/Jack Senn, *Business Managers*
Yulia Allison *Nursery Staff*
Connie Plant/Larry Keiner, *Custodians*



<https://www.facebook.com/trinityuccwooster/>



Visit us online at
www.trinityucc.org



www.youtube.com/trinityuccwooster

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE
10:30am



All Services are available online on Facebook and YouTube
Live services are available on our website at TrinityUCC.org

October 4
World Communion Sunday
Holy Communion

October 11
Dedication of Open & Affirming Cross

October 18
Children’s Sabbath
Laity Sunday

October 25
Guest: Rev. Rachel McDonald

Financial Position August 2026

Trinity UCC Wooster – “Embracing and Celebrating God’s Love”

General Operating Fund Financial Snapshot

	Current Month		**2026 Year to date**		**Last year actual**
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	YTD
Income	\$15,172	\$31,433	\$232,334	\$233,296	\$212,632
Expenses	\$37,320	\$33,226	\$266,349	\$293,114	\$235,646
Net	(\$22,148)	(\$1,792)	(\$34,015)	(\$59,817)	(\$23,014)

Comments: Contribution income was 7k under budget for August. OCWM expenses were high as we double paid July and August in August. We paid for our annual bulk mail permit, and incurred higher building cost due to the Silco Kitchen Inspection, re-keying a lock and handicap door repairs, building supplies and a new vacuum.

Building Repair Fund/Kitchen Renovation Balance: - (\$252,925)

Please continue to give towards the Kitchen Renovation. 2026 will be our final and third year. Many thanks for those who have contributed towards the project.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM BALANCE: \$26,571.

Trinity Breakfast program – 31 years

Established in the summer of 1995.

Our Breakfast program is 31 years old!



Take my Gifts

“Take my gifts
and let me love
you”

Trinity is the place where we come together to use our gifts and talents in service to God and others. As we start our 2027 Stewardship Campaign, “Take my Gifts” we hope that you will take time to reflect on Trinity. We are so grateful for God’s Love that allows us to share love and compassion and our talents to further our ministry in downtown Wooster.

Blessing *of the* Animals

October 4th
3:00 pm
Christmas Run Park,
van Atten Pavillion

People and Pets of all faiths welcome!

Please ensure pets are leashed, caged, or crated.
Can't bring your pet? Photographs are also
encouraged.



Brought to you by the Interfaith Justice
Commitee

Questions? Email Paul at pjkpfstuhl@ccdogle.org

October Birthdays!

Matthew Schaeffer 1st
Jannette Miller 1st
Jim Butler 2nd
Benjamin Wright 4th
Louie Carter 8th
Dave Lueschen 8th
Roxann Long 9th
Richard Goodright 10th
Cheryl Clever 10th
Vaughn Robison 10th
Marina Albright 11th
Rowan Brown 11th
Marylou LaLonde 11th
John Schmidt 12th

Adam Kirk 12th
Kristine Murray 13th
Allyson Amstutz 16th
Janet Burkhart 17th
Kane Murray 17th
Dakota Thomas 18th
Garret Davis 18th
Cameron Reed 19th
Braylon Wenger 19th
Ken Flinner 20th
Patty Dickason 22nd
Bob Mairs 23rd
Michelle Young 24th
Jeff Vizzo 24th

Adam Briggs 25th
Sharon Reed 25th
Joyce Swinehart 25th
Lisa Aultz 26th
Abigail Reed 27th
Elaine Reed 27th
Judy Snyder 27th
Rob Hradek 27th
Alexis Gunn 27th
Jeff Aultz 28th
Jeanne Browning 29th
Frank Hall 30th
Martha Boyer 31st

NEIGHBORS = NEED

Gifts to Neighbors in Need (NIN) support the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). The other two-thirds of the offering support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, direct service projects, and grants. Neighbors in Need grants are annually awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy. Trinity United Church of Christ will participate in this offering on World Communion Sunday, October 4, 2026. Contributions can also be made online through Trinity's website. Thank you for your support and generosity!

🍁 Growing in Faith Together This October 🍁

October brings the beauty of autumn, with colorful leaves, crisp mornings, and a renewed sense of community. As the seasons change around us, we are reminded that our faith continues to grow when we share our gifts, welcome others, and serve together. Each act of service, no matter how big or small, is an opportunity to reflect God's love and help make our worship experience meaningful and welcoming for everyone.

Our worship services are enriched by the many volunteers who faithfully give of their time and talents. We invite you to prayerfully consider serving in one of these important ministries:

📖 **Lay Reader** – Share God's Word and help bring the Scripture message to life.

🌸 **Altar Flowers** – Beautify our worship space in honor, memory, or celebration of someone special.

🤝 **Usher / Greeter** – Offer a warm welcome and help everyone feel at home.

☕ **Coffee Hour Host** – Create a place of fellowship and conversation after worship.

Whether you are serving for the first time or continuing a ministry you have enjoyed for years, your gifts make a lasting difference. Every smile, every greeting, every reading, and every cup of coffee shared helps strengthen the bonds of our church family and reflects Christ's love in action.

Sign up on the sheets in the narthex or contact the church office to reserve your spot. As we welcome September and the changing season, let us continue serving with joyful hearts, generous spirits, and a deep commit-

🍁 October brings the beauty of autumn, with crisp days, colorful leaves, and the warmth of gathering together. As we continue our journey through the fall season, we are grateful for the many ways our church family grows through your kindness, generosity, and willingness to serve.

As we welcome October, we invite you to share your gifts by signing up for October service opportunities. Sign-up sheets are available in the outer narthex.

Thank you for sharing your time and talents as we continue to grow in faith, serve one another, and be God's hands and feet in our community. 🍁



Looking Ahead!

Men's Breakfast in Fellowship Hall 8am - October 3
Blessing of the Animals 3pm - October 4 (Christmas Run Park)
Faith Formation Meeting 6pm - October 6
Quilters 10am - Oct. 7, Oct. 14, Oct. 28
Dedication of the Cross W/ Steve Neff - October 11
Consistory Meeting 6pm - October 13
Women's Lunch @ Barn Restaurant 11:30am - October 21
Mission Team Meeting 4pm - October 21
Fellowship Friday Game Night 7-9pm - October 23
ACT Book Talk 9a - Every Sunday
Choir 9:30am - Every Sunday
ONA Book Study 7pm (On Zoom) - Every Monday
Creative Arts at Trinity (C.A.T.) 4:30pm - Every Wednesday
Bell Choir 6:30pm - Every Thursday

Trinity United Church of Christ

Fellowship Friday GAME NIGHT

Board games, fellowship,
fun and friendly competition!

Friday, October 23

Trinity UCC
Fellowship Hall

Doors open at 7:00pm

150 E North St.
Wooster, OH 44691
330-264-9520

Trinityuccwooster1819@gmail.com

Feel free
to dress up!



PLAY

LAUGH

CONNECT

COMPETE

MAKE
MEMORIES

All are
Welcome!



Hello Trinity,

Happy October! I love this time of year because it is energizing, and not just because of pumpkin lattes. Although, they are a big part of the season now. Indulge if you are a fan.

On Tuesday September 1, Melinda and I represented Trinity at the College of Wooster Religious and Spiritual Life Fair. The Interfaith, Peace and Justice group also had a table and has six local churches as active members, including Trinity. In all I counted 22 churches from Wooster and Wayne County participating in the fair. Many students came in to explore the wide variety of denominations, to ask questions, sign up to volunteer and just have a great time talking and sharing about their faith. Melinda and I did a lot of networking and visiting with our neighboring churches. There was an air of collaboration and mutual support all evening. This event was an exciting way to kick off the Autumn season of worship and action. Indeed, it gave us the boost we needed to look ahead and make plans for now and the future. Hopefully, even in collaboration with other churches in Wooster.

Announcement of upcoming events for the fall season.

The first one is The Blessing of the Animals on October 4th at 3:00 at the van Atten pavilion at Christmas Run Park. This event is sponsored by the Interfaith Peace and Justice Group. I will be there with Pushkin the toy poodle and would love to meet all of your pet companions at the service.

Then on November 4th, Robin Wall Kimmerer will be speaking at the College of Wooster. She is the acclaimed author of “Braiding Sweetgrass” and “Serviceberry,” both great books on preserving and supporting plants and animals by practicing conservation and reciprocity in our daily lives. I highly recommend spending an evening hearing her message on our spiritual and co-dependent connections to wildlife and wild places. The third event is a pod cast by the author Bill McKibben on Tuesday the 29th of September at the Unitarian Universalist church, time still to be determine. There will be an Information flyer from Eva D’Intino about it next week. The pod cast is “What if we get it Right?” and will be a positive message.

Our garden is looking so nice. Thank you to all who worked and watered and weeded all summer. Also, thank you to the building crew who put the faucet in and organized the garden closet. I will be taking my turn in September and October to keep things going. Our plan is to do some additional plantings in October and fill in the bare spots.

Blessings and Peace,

Margaret Bourne for the Mission Committee

October – Daily U.S. Observances

October brings cooler days, changing leaves, and opportunities to celebrate kindness, service, learning, community, and the beauty of God's creation.

- October 1: National Homemade Cookies Day – Sharing a little sweetness with others.
- October 2: National Custodial Workers Recognition Day – Thanking those who help keep our shared spaces clean and cared for.
- October 3: National Boyfriend Day – Celebrating companionship, friendship, and caring relationships.
- October 4: National Do Something Nice Day – Looking for simple ways to brighten someone’s day.
- October 5: National Do Something Nice Day – Choosing kindness through thoughtful words and actions.
- October 6: National Coaches Day – Honoring those who teach, encourage, and guide others.
- October 7: National Walk to School Day – Encouraging healthy activity and community connection.
- October 8: National Hero Day – Recognizing everyday people who help and serve others.
- October 9: National Fire Prevention Day – Promoting fire safety and preparedness.
- October 10: National Walk to a Park Day – Enjoying the outdoors and appreciating our natural spaces.
- October 11: General Pulaski Memorial Day – Remembering a Polish-American military hero who served during the American Revolution.
- October 12: National Farmer’s Day – Giving thanks for the farmers who help feed our communities.
- October 13: Navy Birthday – Honoring the history and service of the United States Navy.
- October 14: National Stop Bullying Day – Encouraging kindness, respect, and inclusion.
- October 15: National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day – Remembering families who have experienced loss with compassion and care.
- October 16: National Boss’s Day – Appreciating leaders and supervisors for their guidance and support.
- October 17: National Pasta Day – Enjoying a favorite meal and the fellowship of sharing food together.
- October 18: National Chocolate Cupcake Day – Enjoying a simple treat and a little sweetness.
- October 19: National Kentucky Day – Celebrating the history and heritage of the Bluegrass State.
- October 20: National Youth Confidence Day – Encouraging young people to recognize their gifts and abilities.
- October 21: National Apple Day – Celebrating the harvest and the gifts of the autumn season.
- October 22: National Make a Dog’s Day – Showing kindness and care to animals.
- October 23: National Boston Cream Pie Day – Celebrating a classic American dessert.
- October 24: National Food Day – Encouraging appreciation for food, nutrition, and access to healthy meals.
- October 25: National I Care About You Day – Taking time to remind others that they are loved and valued.
- October 26: National Day of the Deployed – Recognizing service members serving away from home and remembering their families.
- October 27: National Civics Day – Encouraging learning about citizenship and participation in our communities.
- October 28: National First Responders Day – Thanking those who respond when others need help.
- October 29: National Cat Day – Celebrating the companionship and joy animals bring to our lives.
- October 30: Speak Up for Service Day – Encouraging people to recognize and support those who serve others.
- October 31: Halloween – A day of costumes, treats, community celebrations, and family fun.

Hello all, I am writing this to tell you that October is LGBTQ History Month. I will explain how this got started, then go into the UCC's own history of the LGBTQ.

LGBTQ History Month originated in the United States as Lesbian and Gay History Month, and was first celebrated in October 1994. It was founded by Missouri high-school history teacher Rodney Wilson. Wilson, the first openly gay public school teacher in Missouri, originated the idea, served as founder on the first coordinating committee, and chose October as the month of celebration. October was chosen by Wilson as the month for the celebration because the first and second LGBTQ Marches on Washington, in 1979 and 1987, were in October; National Coming Out Day is on October 11th, chosen to mark the date of the Second March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in 1987, and October is within the academic calendar year. LGBTQ History Month is intended to encourage honesty and openness about being LGBTQ, as well as celebrating important historical figures in the LGBTQ community.

The UCC has been affirming members of the LGBTQ community since 1985 when the General Synod urged congregations to "Declare Themselves Open and Affirming" which started the Open and Affirming (ONA) movement. Before the ONA movement officially began, Rev. William R. Johnson became the first openly gay minister ordained in the UCC in 1972 and Rev. Anne Holmes became the first openly lesbian minister ordained in the UCC in 1982. As with the rest of the LGBTQ movement, most of the focus was on gay and lesbian rights and affirmations until the 1990s when bisexuals and trans people were included. In 2003, the General Synod voted on a resolution "Affirming the Participation and Ministry of Transgender People within the United Church of Christ and Supporting their Civil and Human Rights" so that trans people, such as myself, are recognized within the constitution of the UCC. In 2012 the UCC welcomed its 1,000th ONA congregation. Then, in 2015, Trinity UCC became an Open and Affirming congregation and celebrated our first official ONA Sunday in 2026. We are making history at this very moment since I am the first trans person to serve as Trinity's Vice Moderator.

Thank you for reading this brief history of LGBTQ people within the UCC and please watch for more articles in the Friday E News from the ONA team to talk about specific topics about LGBTQ history.

-G Gilmore



Back Bay Mission Trip, October 17th or 18th to October 24th. If interested in joining us, please call Jim Shoots for details (330) 749-6846.



Join the mission team in welcoming The Reverend Rachel McDonald/UCC Minister of Generosity to Trinity on October 25 for worship and lunch. The mission team will host The Reverend McDonald for lunch in the fellowship hall immediately following the worship service.

Homeward Bound First Annual Dinner

Homeward Bound is preparing for its First Annual Dinner, and the congregation is invited to join them in celebrating this important milestone and supporting their mission of dignity-centered community work.

The evening will also include a special recognition of Janet Burkhart for her commitment to the Homeward Bound mission.

Friday, November 20

5:30 PM – Social & Silent Auction

6:00 PM – Dinner & Short Program

Location: Trinity Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$40 per person

Please RSVP by November 2.

To register, visit bit.ly/4gxa4OA

Homeward Bound appreciates Trinity UCC's continued partnership and support in helping connect neighbors with opportunities to build a stronger and more caring community. We hope you will consider attending and helping celebrate this special occasion!