

Trinity Friends,

Christmas is drawing near. Remember that the gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love are the best presents that you can receive and the most important to give to others.

What more do we need to say about lighting a candle for peace? Everyone in this world needs peace. Where can you find peace? The prophet Isaiah wrote, "A Highway will be there and it will be called the Holy Way." Jesus used that image during his advice to the disciples, "I am the way." Every Highway is designed to take you somewhere and we all know that it makes a difference what road you're on.

God's spirit is alive in the world today leading us toward "Peace on earth and goodwill to all." It's a fragile thing- like a newborn baby. If you don't have peace or goodwill, do everything you can to find it. You need it. The world needs it. Nurture it and protect it like you would a newborn baby. Make room for people who live on the edges. It's the only thing that can save us.

This is our calling. This is our job as the church with every candle we light, every carol we sing and every gift we give;

To offer people a new vision for the world.

To lead all people to the High Way of hope, peace, joy and love.

Your partner in Christ's Ministry,

Dr. Franklin



DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



December 3rd: Downtown Church Walk 5-8pm

December 5th: Second Sunday of Advent (**Peace**)
"They'll call back"
Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin

December 12th: Third Sunday of Advent (**Love**)
"When is God NOT with us?"
Philippians 4:4-9, Luke 3:7-18

Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin

4:00pm Barn Service At Reed's Farm

Address: 7814 West Smithville Western Rd. Wooster, Ohio

December 15th: Blue Christmas Service at 6:30pm

December 19th: Fourth Sunday of Advent (**Joy**)
Christmas Program

Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin

December 24th: Candlelight Christmas Eve 5PM Family Service
10PM Traditional

December 26th: Carol Sing

Rev. Emily Howard

Christmas Wishes;- Make a wish come true for a special child... once again Trinity will help to provide gifts for children who might not otherwise have something to look forward to on Christmas morning. If you wish to sponsor a child, please sign your name in the book in the narthex the Sunday before thanksgiving. Your wrapped gift should be brought to the church or office. The deadline is December 12th.

Labeling Instructions: On the outside of the package should be the child's first name, last initial and number along with the caseworker's name. Gift receipts and tags are especially helpful with clothing items in case of duplication or improper fit and can be placed in a separate envelope for the caseworker's eyes only. Let's make this Christmas one that each child can remember.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Sandy Wenger at
sandywenger@zoominternet.net

Women's Guild invites you to an afternoon tea. Join us on December 21st at 2pm for a cozy cup of tea and refreshments. Dee Carter will showcase her teapot collection and will provide various flavors of tea for us to sample. Take time to relax a bit and enjoy each other's company before the holidays. **Cheerio!**



FINANCIAL POSITION - October, 2021

Trinity UCC Wooster - "Embracing & Celebrating God's Love"

General Operating Fund Financial Snapshot

	Current Month		**2021 Year to Date**		**Last Year Actual**
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$ 28,045	\$ 44,065	\$219,811	\$264,180	\$ 215,195
Expenses	\$ 32,485	\$ 38,343	\$269,625	\$311,582	\$ 256,142
Net	\$(4,440)	\$ 5,722	\$(49,814)	\$(47,402)	\$(40,947)

Comments:

During October, we received some of our annual contributor's donations. We had budgeted to receive more of these donations which have already been donated earlier this year. On the expense side there were no extra ordinary expenses except for the fact that October is a three pay period month which the budget reflects.

Please consider an additional contribution to help us to balance out 2021!

Building Repair Fund Balance: \$ -(14,481)

BREAKFAST PROGRAM BALANCE: \$26,323

Average weekly attendance: Not counted in October

Trinity Breakfast program-26 Years
Established in the summer of 1995



Senior Birthdays

- 1st Corky Dettra
- 2nd Bob Nesbit
- 5th Don Starr
- 9th Chuck Cooper
- 13th Charles Gerber
- 17th Lucy Baus
- 25th Joanne Leaman
- 27th Mindy Laverty
- 29th Bob Blanchard

Men's Breakfast

Join us for breakfast and random conversation at Farmer Boy restaurant Saturday December 11, 2021 at 8am.



Associate Pastor's Message

Hi, friends,

I came to this church two years ago, and my first season I spent here was Advent. It is the new year of the church. We could not have known then about COVID-19. We could not have known the racial justice protests that would come in 2020. I could not have known that my ordination would be a hybrid worship service, in person and online, and my installation would be online only. We have navigated these difficulties in God's gracious spirit. I am so blessed to remember your spiritual gifts.

We start anew every year, not knowing what will come. But we anchor our trust in God's promises - the promises of Hope, Joy, Love, and Peace, the same promise that held out HOPE, JOY, LOVE, and PEACE, to an exiled Israel and a downtrodden creation. We are not the first to go through challenges.

We still need to hear the promises again and again before believing them. God keeps repeating them, through eternity.

Love, Emily



Blue Christmas Worship Service

Wednesday, 12/15 at 6:30pm

www.trinityucc.org Prayer and Com-

munion link Blue Christmas (also

called the Longest Night) is a day in

the Advent season marking the longest

night of the year. It is associated with

the Longest Night, the Winter Solstice.

The Worship often includes opportuni-

ties for expression of grief and pain as

well as an opportunity to focus on the

promise of hope. We remember grief,

challenges, and struggle, even as we

light the candles of hope. There are

growing resources and popularity around

this tradition due to the relevance for

many who struggle to find joy and hope

during festive seasons.



Citizen Scientists and Christian Stewardship

Have you said—or heard someone say—that the trees seem to be holding their leaves longer than in the past? How do you know that this is an impression, or a true pattern in the world? I know that I have been making such observations to my family and friends for these past several years. But what if I had been keeping careful observation notes about the environment all along? Maybe then I would see a pattern emerging that would not only support my impressions but could also be usefully shared with the observations of others.

When I was teaching preschool, we always had Leaf Week the first or second week of October. We always had plenty of beautiful leaves to gather on walks, to study, to make art with, or to take home to share with parents. Over the years, however, we noticed that the leaves were not changing in time to fit our schedule. So, we moved Leaf Week closer and closer to Halloween, only to eventually discover the leaves were still green even at the end of October! We couldn't move Leaf Week into November, as that was the start of our Gratefulness Curriculum. What a conundrum we were in. Now, looking back, I realize that this creeping of Leaf Week towards Thanksgiving might be evidence of climate change. No test tubes or electronic tracking devices were used, but information had been accumulated—and just might mean something when combined with other data.

As the Glasgow Climate Change Conference closes with countries arguing about how to stop numerous impending disastrous disruptions of the planet, I am wondering what I as just one little person on a very big planet can do. But one way in which we as Christians can be stewards of God's gifts on this wonderful planet is to take part in what is now called Citizen Science, involving a wide range of information gathering projects that involve amateur and nonprofessional scientists noticing what is happening to the plants and animals in their backyards and local spaces both green and otherwise.

In essence, this is a call to stop worrying and to get involved: to become a record keeper, a bird counter, a butterfly watcher, a careful observer of the world around us in this little corner of the world here in Wayne County, Ohio. There are huge data gathering programs all over the world, and we can be part of that. What we observe in our own back yards can be included in larger explorations and understandings of what is happening in our world. In Mathew 6:26 and 27, Jesus admonishes that “worrying” about the “birds of the air” will gain little, but what I am describing is something different. This involves coming to know the world. Does God's creation deserve anything less?

For those of you interested, here are just a few of the organizations and initiatives involving participation in citizen science for the planet: journeynorth.org

seedsavers.org feederwatch.org

audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count

December Book Recommendation:

The Overstory by Richard Powers – Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2019

Margaret Meeker Bourne for the Climate Crisis Committee



2021 has been another unique year due to the pandemic. As we wrap up the year we are asking the members and friends of Trinity to consider an additional contribution to help us balance out the year. During 2021 Trinity started back in mission with the Back Bay Mission Trip, North Street Mission and the Esperanza Mission trip.

VIRTUAL ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

NOVEMBER 16 - DECEMBER 15, 2021

As Christians, we are called to care for the needy, showing our love of Christ through our actions. The Alternative Gift Market is a wonderful opportunity to show our Christian love through unique and life-giving gifts. These are authentic gifts that will change lives. If you are looking for the “perfect gift”, this is it! As in past years, Trinity’s Mission Committee is partnering with five other local congregations in offering the Alternative Gift Market. Due to Covid, our market is virtual again this year. I encourage you to visit the website shown below to learn about the projects supported by this year’s market. <https://alternativegifts.org/giving/crowdfunds/116> Here you can support a project, order cards if you wish, and information about the project(s) you have chosen will be sent to you the same day. You can also peruse a catalog in the narthex, and pick up an order form there, or place an order by calling Alternative Gifts International at (800)842-2243 and mention the Wooster Market.

For more information, contact Nancy Lilburn at (330) 234-6848 or nancyweirlilburn@gmail.com

December Faith Formation Opportunities

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas to all of you! This year has been such an interesting year and I look forward to getting to celebrate Advent and Christmas in person with those of you who feel safe joining us. Here are some ways to gather in small groups to learn more about God's love for us and to enjoy small group fellowship:

Sundays: ACT via zoom at 8:00. Faith Formation classes for all ages at 9:15-10:15.

Worship at 10:30. Praying with Drums after worship until Noon on 1st and 2nd Sundays.

Christmas Gathering in Fellowship Hall after worship on December 19th .

Mondays: You are invited to join us for Qi Gong movement led by Rich Plant, via zoom in the Parlor. Trinity's Wellness Program meets at 10:30 in the Parlor. This is a time to share healthy ideas for Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus and Friends. All are invited to join us.

Speaking of fitness, faith and food, on **Tuesdays**, you are invited to join us for Yoga in the Chapel led by Lyn Shoots at 10:00 and Soup, Scripture and Talk Together led by Suzanne in the Parlor at Noon. On December 14th at noon, Lunch Bunch will be gathering in Fellowship Hall to celebrate Christmas. Please let the church know if you are interested in attending this.

C.A.T. on Wednesdays takes place anytime after 4:30 until 7:00 on Trinity's second floor. This is a great time for kids to do art, music, stories, share supper together and socialize. If you know of children who might be interested, please invite them to give us a try!

Thursdays are another chance for Advent Bible Study at 1:00 via zoom or in-person. If you are interested, please let me know and I will get you the information about the class and the zoom link. If you are interested but need a different time, also let me know and we will work that out.

On **Thursdays**, Yoga is held at 6:00 in the Chapel. Bell Choir is held at 7:00 in the balcony. The Youth and Young Ones are working on the Christmas Play which will be shared during worship on December 19th . Please join us as we together share the story of Christ's birth.

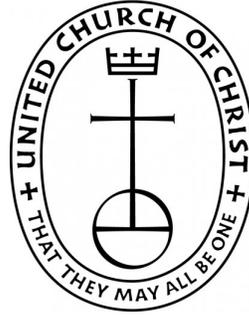
Scripture of the month: You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. Isaiah 40:9-11

Shout to all, that God is good, and rest in Shepherd Jesus' loving arms during this busy season!

Suzanne Feltner, Director of Christian Education and Arts

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

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Rev. Emily Howard - *Associate Pastor*

Shalom Homa, *Administrative Coordinator/Secretary*

Suzanne Feltner, *Director of Christian Education and Arts*

Luke Tegtmeier, *Organist*

Phil Starr, *Business Manager*

Brandi Stevenson, *Assitant Business Manager*

Joslyn Hauter, *Custodian*

Nursery Staff include:

Yulia Allison



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



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.