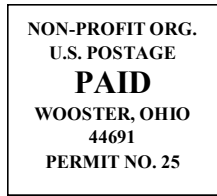
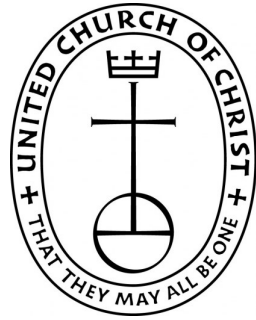


Trinity United Church of Christ
“Embracing and Celebrating God’s Love”
150 East North Street
Wooster, OH 44691-4350

Office Hours: M-F 10:00a - 2:00p
Phone (330) 264-9250
Email: trinityuccwooster1819@gmail.com
Website: www.trinityucc.org



January 2025
Trinity UCC Topics

“You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.” John 15:16

Trinity Friends,

On July 7, 1985 during my ordination service in Henrietta, Ohio, Rev. Dr. Robert Kasper, with whom I had spent a year in ministry in the Chicago area, and whom I asked to deliver the message that day, selected John 15:16 as the text. Well, I didn’t get John 3:16, that may have been too obvious and simple, rather through the years different parts of John 3:16 has inspired me at opportune times. Jesus calls us to be disciples in order to “bear fruit”. After all, “be fruitful” is one of the first commandments that God gave humanity at the beginning of creation. A new year causes us to reflect on what it means to live a fruitful life? What does it mean for Trinity to be fruitful? This is the question that inspire you as you enter a new year with new opportunities.

In John's Gospel, during the last supper, in the Gospel of John, Jesus, uses the image of vines and branches urging his followers to, "To go and bear much fruit... fruit that will last..." Paul laid out a model of Christian traits that we call the "fruits of the Spirit" in Galatians 5:24.

A hospital in Maryland has a simple vision statement. “To effect the most good in the lives of our patients.” What if Churches followed suit with a vision statement like “To effect the most good in the lives of our members.”? What would that look like? What does a faith look like? A sense of satisfaction? A feeling that you have done something significant for someone else? What is fruitful worship? A Good sermon? Feeling God’s presence? There is no doubt that what we do produces good works in the world.

It’s good to see people taking a genuine interest in the well-being of others.

Many college students have grown in their understanding of poverty and social class issues by working in our program house and working in the breakfast program. At this point in our work in Mexico over 200 different people have worked side by side with us in Tijuana working with Esperanza. There is no doubt that we have provided those real experiences that have made a difference in people’s lives here and there.

Consider the retired couple from Millersburg who come to Wooster to donate their time in our breakfast program, often bringing along a friend or two to share the experience. The church makes us curious for relationship and connection. Good mission always feels good. God prunes us along the way, and even in what we think of as failure is God’s way of shaping us into better servants if we do not give up. 2025. One fourth of the 21st Century is already over! How can 2025 be Trinity’s harvest year of bearing fruit? Even though we turn the world's wisdom on its head, we still can ask "What does success look like in the church?" How do we live in the fullness of life that God intended for us by bearing much fruit?

Your Partner in Christ’s Service,

Dr. Franklin



Rev. Dr. Kevan Franklin, *Senior Minister*
Suzanne Feltner, *Faith Formation and*
Arts Director
Joi Griffith, *Administrative Assistant*
Luke Tegtmeier, *Organist*
Phil Starr, *Business Manager*
Yulia Allison, *Nursery Staff*
Connie Plant, *Custodian*



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



Visit us online at
www.trinityucc.org



www.youtube.com/trinityuccwooster

JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE
10:30am



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

January 5

Holy Communion

John 1:1-18

“The things we can’t see, Arise, Shine your light
has come!”

January 12

First Sunday of Epiphany

Acts 8:14-17, Matthew 2:1-12

“Remember”

January 19

Second Sunday of Epiphany

John 2:1-11

“Join the Family”

January 26

Annual Meeting of Fellowship Hall

Luke 4:14-21

“Peace is every step ”

Financial Position November 2024

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

General Operating Fund Financial Snapshot

	<u>**Current Month**</u>		<u>**2024 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	\$43,047	\$29,069	\$196,225	\$232,621	\$189,370
Expenses	\$24,587	\$26,540	\$285,943	\$324,650	\$320,618
Net	\$18,460	\$2,529	(\$89,718)	(\$92,029)	(\$131,247)

Comments:

Our contribution income was \$14k over budget as we received several of our annual contributors’ donations. On the expense side, we continue to run under budget, and incurred organ tuning and repair of \$665. Other than that expenses we normal.

Building Repair Fund/Kitchen Renovation Balance: - (\$272,840)

During the month, we paid our last check to Vince Mariola \$5,944, and finished Commercial Kitchens \$5,268. The project is completed!!!!

BREAKFAST PROGRAM BALANCE: \$26,828

Trinity Breakfast program – 29 year
Established in the summer of 1995.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025!



Trinity offers Electronic options for donations



PayPal



Venmo



Vanco

Have you considered electronic giving? Many options are available to you when making donations to Trinity. One option is to make One-time donations online by reading one of the QR codes above. You can choose PayPal (QR code on the left), Venmo (middle) or the Vanco code (on right) to donate from a checking account or credit card. They can also be set up to make periodic donations. Through Vanco, you can also set up Electronic giving to have your donation pulled once or twice a month. See the Stewardship page on our website for the sign-up form, or contact Phil Starr for more information.

Happy New Year, everyone! It is always important to gather together to learn, to worship and to serve. So, for this coming year, I am looking into ways to offer more opportunities to strengthen our faith together and to learn more wonderful ways the arts can help us feel closer to our great Creator God, and our Savior, Jesus Christ. If any ideas come to you, please share them with me!

In Christ’s name,
Suzanne Feltner





January Birthdays!

Daniel Montelione3rd

Linda Baney4th

Larry Patterson6th

Claude Grindstaff7th

Robbie Chipka8th

Jeanette Ziegler8th

Joe Kirk9th

Jodi Kirk10th

Vicki Anderson11th

Marc Bertsch11th

Carol Eberhart11th

Gabrielle Wright11th

Thomas Sarbach18th

Mark Blough19th

Jenny Shoots23rd

Valerie Anderson26th

Jim Newman26th

Katie Dossi31st



Trinity UCC Wooster—Stewardship 2025

Join us and share the Gift you are!

A photograph of a church interior. A group of people, mostly older adults, are seated at long tables arranged in a U-shape. They appear to be engaged in conversation or a meal. The room has wood-paneled walls and a high ceiling with recessed lighting. A man in a suit is standing at the front of the room, possibly addressing the group.

*“Dream of a bright tomorrow
Know that your dream will come true
Carry your dream in a sparkling crystal jar
Then you will know the kind of gift you are”*

Our super awesome January volunteers!

Lay Readers

January 5th -
January 12th -
January 19th -
January 26th -

Coffee Hour

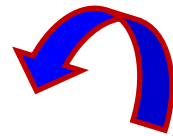
January 5th -
January 12th -
January 19th -
January 26th -

Flowers

January 5th -
January 12th -
January 19th -
January 26th -

Ushers

January 5th -
January 12th -
January 19th -
January 26th -



Our church is so great because of the community we have created, and the hands that help us put everything together.

We encourage you to sign up to be one of our volunteers! If you are interested in filling one of the remaining spots, or planning ahead for the month of July, you can find the sign up sheets in the outer Narthex!



Looking Ahead!

MLK Art Day - **January 3** @ Wayne County Public Library 1-3p
Men's Breakfast - **January 4** @ 8a
Choir & Bells Dinner- **January 9** @ 6p
MLK Art Submission Deadline - **January 10**
Women's Lunch - **January 15** @ Green Leaf 11:30a
MLK Book Reading - **January 20** @ WCPL 2-4P
MLK Commemorative Service - **January 20** @ First Presbyterian Church 7-9p
Fellowship Friday: Game Night - **January 24** 7-9p
Consistory - **January 26** 5:30p

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

DAY CENTER & SEVERE WEATHER SHELTER



HOMeward BOUND



<https://linko.page/shpztopc49y>



Our Services

- Laundry Attendant
- Day Center Attendant
- Kitchen Server
- Severe Weather Shelter Attendant
- Weekend Maintenance

For more information
or to sign up:



Day Center
Volunteer



Severe Weather Shelter
Volunteer

<https://qrcc.io/sjkhf41gbcfv>

<https://qrcc.io/shxm62mvpkcp>

981 Grosjean Rd. Wooster, OH 44691

volunteer@homewardboundwwc.org

We Did It!

The 2023-2024 Kitchen and Fellowship Hall Renovation is complete. No more saw-ing noises or sanding dust. No more navigating in the back Narthex to get around the temporary Breakfast Program set up. No holes in the Fellowship Hall floor! The Break-fast Program has returned to normal operation. Trinity is ready to again be a communi-ty presence and we hope to host many events in the future.

The Renovation Team wants to thank you all for your monetary donations and sup-port of the fund raisers, for your time spent cleaning and moving things in or out of the kitchen and for working the Breakfast Program in an unfamiliar setting. Above all, thank you for your patience as we worked through some problems that extended the completion time.

Everything was much appreciated. You all are a blessing!

The Renovation Team



Hello, friends! This fall I had the opportunity to hear two Eco-Theologists speak about hope in the face of climate change. Five of us from our congregation went to the Climate Action Summit at Tempel Hills on October 12th. It was a beautiful fall day, and we enjoyed a time filled with fellowship and contemplation. I sat in on Dr. Timothy Van Meter’s talk on “Constructing Hope: Practices for Resisting Despair.”

But here are his main thoughts about what faces us: Time is running out to turn climate change around, the collapse of envi-ronmental systems is well underway, and the ocean is rising. The tipping point is now calculated to be 2040. We can do al-most nothing to change or counter the 20 corporations that are making 80% of the pollution causing climate change. However, we can do the individual and group work of building faith and hope. His outline for that process is this series of steps.

- Four weeks of Grief and Lamentation** – first we cry out and acknowledge our despair.
- Four weeks of looking at Reality** –we need to call ourselves back to our childhood wonder of nature, to the awe we felt in eve-ryday moments of discovery. We need more than ever to get out in nature and recapture those feelings in this moment, and become grounded in them.
- Four weeks of practicing Hope**—engaging our lives through music, poetry, and art that express our joy in the natural world.

In the class on Hope that he teaches at Methodist Theological School of Ohio, Dr. Van Meter tells his students to pick one piece of music, poetry, or art, and concentrate on it, study it, find meaning, and pass it on to others to expand the movement. My husband Dan recalled that during martial law in Poland, writers and other artists practiced “Internal Emigration,” a looking inward. They would still write and cultivate their art, while acknowledging the danger of open acts of resistance. But what Dr. Van Meter has in mind is a more positive process: to join in the conspiracy of minds nurturing hope about the future and our place in history. Now is the time to study and create our own resistance as people of faith, art, and science. Dr. Van Meter en-courages us also to find places of joy in deepening relationships. Together we can put our hearts and minds to work to help others find a way to navigate our unknown future on this Earth. (If you are interested in reading more of Dr, Van Meter’s work, please contact Maren Koepf at the Heartland office: marenkoepf@gmail.com

My second encounter with a lecture full of hope was when a few Sundays ago in church, Dick and Lin Wierwille invited the congregation to their home. It was for an evening of homemade apple pie and a YouTube podcast of another eco-theologian, Dr. Kiara Jorgenson, the associate professor of Religion and Environmental Studies at St. Olaf College’s United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. Dr. Jorgenson’s lecture, titled “Hope Through Tears,” was part of her being named resident schol-ar of United's program on Environmental Theology and Ethics, which aims to discuss the spiritual implications of our relation-ship with nature.

What is fascinating to me is that both Dr. Van Meter and Dr. Jorgenson are advising some of the same things: facing our cir-cumstances, acknowledging the many losses we have and will suffer; yet; as people of faith and children of God, we can still find hope. Indeed, Dr. Jorgenson started her lecture by asking, “What is hope? As part of her own answer, she gave us three modes to practice in finding this hope.

- 1. Protest:** Use our life force and energy to resist in the face of the climate crisis.
- 2. Weep:** Give the gift of tears to yourself. Come to the sober recognition of what is happening and have acceptance of the situation humanity is in.

3. Fall into Joy: Hope can be a rejoining, it is active, it awakens our sense of potential. For instance, we can gather to share poetry, art, music and pie.
Dr. Kiara also gave us the same bad news that by 2040 our human existence will be in peril: the loss of polar ice sheets creating sea level rise everywhere on the world’s coasts; only 4% of vertebrates still alive; and the net production of cereal crops de-clining, thereby causing hunger to rise worldwide. Yet, she emphasized over and over that cultivating hope is a holy and neces-sary practice. Her lecture was dense with a spirit of Hope, with encouraging words of wisdom, with practical ways to nurture our hope and share it with others. I encourage you to find her lecture on YouTube, invite over some friends, make a pie or two or three grab a cup of coffee, and watch this useful guide for surviving emotionally and spiritually what may lie ahead...

Margaret Bourne for the Climate Justice Team

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
COMMUNITY CELEBRATION SERVICE**



Featuring *The Movement Revisited: A Musical Portrait of Four Icons* directed by J.D. Steele with 4 Narrators, the College of Wooster Jazz Ensemble and Gospel Choir.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Essay Contest Winners for 2025 will be presented with their awards.

MONDAY

JANUARY 20, 2025-7pm

First Presbyterian Church
621 College Ave., Wooster

Sponsored by the Wooster-Orrville NAACP



**2025
Martin Luther King
Event Celebrations**

MLK Art Day

1-3pm Wayne County Public Library
Join us at the library as we create art
that reflects civil rights.

Jan. 3

MLK Art Submission Deadline

WCPL-Children's Department
All Wayne County students may enter
Details at Art.of.Inclusion.org

Jan. 10

MLK Book Reading

2-4pm Wayne County Public Library
This year's book reading is "*Freedom
on the Menu*" by Carole Boston.

Jan. 20

MLK Commemorative Service

7-9pm First Presbyterian Church
Martin Luther King Essay Contest Winners
presented with their awards.
Performance of a Jazz Oratorio, *The
Movement Revisited*, that pays tribute to
Four Civil Rights Icons.

Jan. 20