



**trinity**  
united church of Christ

**Sunday Worship @**  
10:00 am each week

**Sunday School  
& Branching Out**  
Sunday School for all  
ages @ 9:00 am &  
Branching Out Kids  
Church during Worship

Sermon Series:



Upcoming Events:

*February 21st*  
6:00 pm  
Church Soup & Salad  
Supper

*February 21st*  
6:30 pm  
Mission Team Meeting

*February 25th*  
5:00 pm  
Wittman Small Group  
(must reserve a spot to  
attend)

*March 9th*  
Daylight Savings Time  
Turn Clocks Ahead 1  
Hour

*March 16th*  
Opportunity to serve at  
the Genoa Food Pantry

# Tidings

VOLUME 98, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2024

## Back to Basics

Hello Trinity

We are going back to basics as we head into Spring. This year we will have an early Easter season, and in this season we will be focusing on our essential belief in Jesus Christ. What are the things we know about Jesus that are essential to our faith and understanding? This season we will reflect on the significance of truly knowing Jesus. It's not just about acknowledging Him in passing; it's about diving deep into the waters of understanding, experiencing, and affirming the essential doctrines that form the bedrock of our faith.

**God-Incarnate:** First and foremost, let's marvel at the fact that Jesus is not just a historical figure or a wise teacher; He is the very incarnation of God. Wrap your mind around that for a moment! The Almighty, the Creator of the universe, took on flesh and dwelt among us. It's mind-boggling and humbling to think that the God of all creation walked on this earth, experiencing our joys and sorrows, just like us.

**Miracle Worker:** The miracles Jesus performed weren't just flashy displays of power; they were glimpses into the divine nature and the compassion of our Savior. From turning water into wine to healing the sick, Jesus showcased His authority over every aspect of life. Let's be amazed anew at the miracles of our

Lord and find inspiration in His ability to transform lives.

**Master Teacher:** Jesus didn't just stroll around performing miracles for the sake of spectacle. His teachings are profound, timeless, and carry the wisdom that can guide us through every twist and turn of life. As we grow in our knowledge of Christ, let's commit ourselves to understanding His words, applying them to our lives, and sharing this wisdom with others. After all, what good is knowledge if it's not applied?

**The Sacrificial Act of Love:** Perhaps the most profound aspect of our faith lies in the sacrificial love Jesus demonstrated on the cross. His death wasn't a tragic end; it was a purposeful sacrifice to atone for our sins. As we grow in our understanding of Christ, let's not forget the depth of His love that led Him to lay down His life for us.

**The Victory of Resurrection:** But the story doesn't end at the cross. The empty tomb speaks of a triumphant Savior who conquered death itself. Our hope is not in vain; it's rooted in the resurrected Christ, who assures us of eternal life. Let's celebrate this victory and live in the joy of knowing that death has no power over us! In the midst of our imperfections and shortcomings, His love remains constant. As we deepen our knowledge of Christ, may we also grow in our awareness of the unending grace He freely extends to us.

We are people on a journey! A journey of discovering, understanding, and affirming the essential doctrine of our faith—the incomparable richness found in knowing Jesus Christ. As we grow in this knowledge, may it transform not only our minds but also our hearts and actions.

In His love,  
*Pastor Ryan*

## Council Minutes: December 2023

The Trinity United Church of Christ, Elliston Church Council met on Monday, December 11 at 7:05pm. Rebecca Reif, President, called the meeting to order, and Pastor Ryan Shields opened with prayer. Those in attendance were as follows: Rebecca Reif, Pastor Ryan, Brittany Wittman, Eric Gahler, Emily Burcin, Brice Gahler, Marty Hoeft, Sam Sutter, Susie Shaffer, Nate Diekman, Kim Traver and Mary Muntz

### Reports

#### Recording Secretary:

Nate moved to approve minutes. Brice 2<sup>nd</sup>. MC.

#### Administrative Assistant + Financial:

Reports were reviewed.

Annual Congregational Business/Budget Meeting January 7<sup>th</sup>. Committee reports must be turned in to the office no later than December 31, 2023.

Fellowship Hall floor will be refinished from January 8<sup>th</sup> through January 11<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to accept reports and 2024 Proposed Budget made by first Brice, second by Emily, MC

#### Pastoral:

New small group will be launching at the beginning of 2024. Looking for 8-12 members. Planned vacation from 1/8 – 1/14

#### Children’s Director & EFY Report

Children’s Christmas Program coming up on 12/17  
Working on organizing Church Camp

#### Missions & Outreach

Angel Tree going well

Vision Kitchen – working on making it a monthly mission with Emily’s guidance

#### 2030 Team

Meeting scheduled for first of the year.

#### Church + Ministry

All reviews done with new rubric + went well

#### Trustees

IPS working on items under warranty

Renewed snow removal contract with Arnold’s Property Maintenance. \$100/clearing. \$200/clearing over 2”

Bells now working

Brice leading a church clean up day on January 28<sup>th</sup> following church

#### Old Business

Council positions almost all filled.

Purchase of Clavinova for church. This is an electronic piano that can be moved, if needed, and will not be need to be tuned. Motion to approve purchase of Yamaha Piano Clavinova for up to \$3500 to replace current piano by Nate. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sam. MC.

#### New Business

Amy will be on vacation December 26<sup>th</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Nate Diekman will be filling in as custodian for this term. Will be compensated Amy’s wage during this time.

Pastor Ryan requested his Housing allowance be increased from \$20,000 to \$24,000 for 2024 resulting in his cash Base Salary decreasing by \$4,000. Sam motioned to approved this request. Kim 2<sup>nd</sup>. MC.

Request by Sarah Edwards for Trinity to be sponsoring church for her NWOA UCC licensure. Marty motioned to approve request. Nate 2<sup>nd</sup>. MC.

Next meeting January 8 at 7pm.

Motion to adjourn meeting by first Brittany, second by Susie. MC.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21pm by Rebecca.

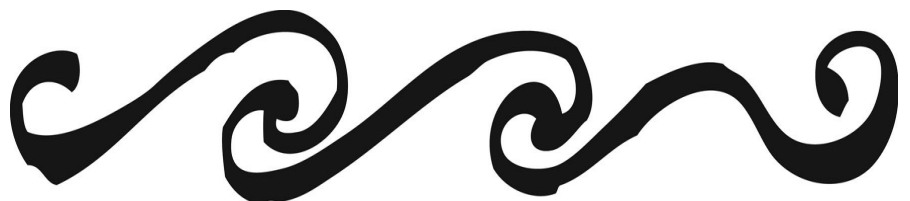
Respectfully submitted by Brittany Wittman, Recording Secretary.



Council regularly  
meets at the  
Church monthly  
on the  
2nd Monday  
at 7:00 pm  
in the Coffee  
Room next to  
the Kitchen

### General Operating Fund (Council approved 01/08/24)

Beginning Balance 12/01/2023	\$38,125.54
Offering/Income	\$18,729.13
Expenses	\$13,046.35
Transfers	(\$765.00)
Balance 11/30/2023	\$43,043.32



### Annual Congregational Meeting: January 7, 2024

The Trinity United Church of Christ, Elliston Church Council met for the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 7 at 11:20am. Rebecca Reif, President, called the meeting to order and Pastor Ryan Shields opened with prayer.

#### Budget Review

Item brought to attention was actual Janitor Services could go up and be closer to the budgeted amount Nate Diekman motioned to approve the budget. Brice Gahler 2<sup>nd</sup>. MC.

#### Council

Thank you to all those who are leaving Council and served for 2 years. We have a full slate of officers.

Motion to approve all new officers by Ann Diekman. Nate Diekman 2<sup>nd</sup>. MC.

#### Benevolence Notes by Pastor Ryan

Church saw needs and we delivered.

TUCC helped pay down \$7,000 of school debt across local schools

Mission Spotlight collected and dispersed almost \$10,000

2024 Benevolence Goal is \$20,000

Meeting adjourned at 11:31am

- Welcome to Calee Elisabeth Hellwig, born to Amy & Tyler Hellwig January 22, 2024. Calee weighed 7 pounds and was 20 inches long. Grandparents are Jay & Joanne Hellwig.
- Don Seltzer, hospitalized with a bad infection
- Christopher Liphart & Family - mourning the loss of a loved one.
- Mary Muntz - upcoming testing & continued recovery from infection.
- Dave Dresser, recovering from heart bypass surgery and complications
- Doug Avery recovering from many injuries from his fall
- Jackie Pelton recovering from an illness.



**At Genoa Retirement Village:** Don Hoeft, Jackie Pelton, Norma Reif

**Those with long-term health concerns:** Dawn Baker, Rev. Don Corbin, Emeli Gahler, Joel Marquart, Rayna Perry, Chuck Vizi, Deanna Vizi, Don Weaver, Steve Welling, Jamison (Jamie) Zimmerman

#### Those battling cancer

Logan Murphy, Jackie Pelton, Dustin Schmidt

Pray for our  
**MISSIONARIES**

Ben & Mandi Wood  
Elliston, Jonstun & Noah  
serving in Florida  
CRU

Jay & Zina Herman  
Ari & Milo  
Serving in Slovenia  
through CRU



# small groups

## Current Small Groups that are always open to new participants:

Tuesday Morning Coffee 8-10 am weekly  
Adult Sunday School 9:00 am every Sunday  
Both groups held in the room next to the Kitchen

## Beginning February 25, 2024 Adult Small Group Opportunity

Believing that small groups for prayer, study, and community are vital to the mission of Christ's church, a new ministry program will begin in 2024.

A couple from Trinity has graciously offered to lead the first of our small group ministries. This group will meet on the fourth Sunday of each month, at the host home, from around 5:00-7:00 PM for a time of food, fellowship, prayer, and study. Their first meeting will be February 25th. This group is designed to be a more intimate and open conversation where members can freely discuss life's challenges, seek prayer, and support and find community serving and growing together.

This group is not exclusive to married couples with children, however, these themes will be a recurring part of the conversation.

Participants are expected to commit deeply to the small group process and share in the accountability and confidentiality of a more personal discussion.

If you would be interested in joining this group please contact the church office.

# THANK YOU



A most sincere THANK YOU from your Administrative Assistant Mary Muntz for your prayers, messages, cards and flowers during her January hospital stay and illness. She has a few more tests ahead, however the infection is healed and she is happy to be back to work and a somewhat normal routine. She is very appreciative of each one who makes up this extended family here at Trinity.

Notes of THANKS have been received from the Elmore Food Pantry, Genoa Community Food Pantry, BCS Food Pantry and Zion Light Pantry for financial gifts given in 2023.

The Salvation Army sends a note of THANKS to those who helped with ringing the bell at Miller's Market this past holiday season and helping them give aide to the less fortunate in our community.

The Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission sends their THANKS for your financial and prayer support during 2023. Your gifts help them share the love of Jesus, with the gospel as focus, in all they do. Through the ministry of shelter to the homeless and food to the hungry, it is their desire that those they minister to would come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ in their lives. May the Lord bless you as you have blessed those in need.

Grace Community Center sends a note of THANKS for your financial support during 2023. This support helps keep their doors open to families in their Toledo Community. Children receive educational support through their After School Program and benefit from summer fun activities through their EDUCAMP, which combines traditional camp activities with academic enrichment. Visit their new website [gcctoledo.org](http://gcctoledo.org) to learn more about their programs and services.

Ben & Mandi Wood and kids send their THANKS for your financial and prayer support during 2023. Your support help them reach this nation and the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

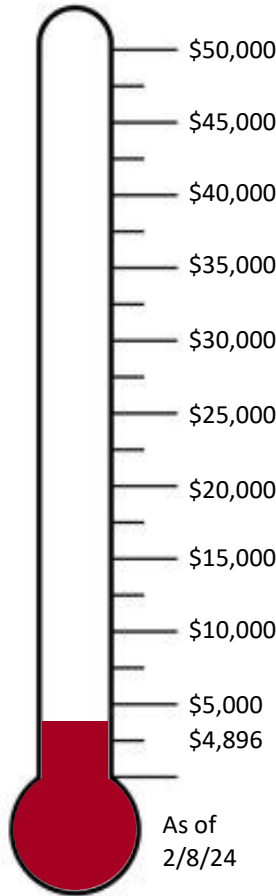


**We are seeking leaders to establish groups similar to the one listed above for singles, couples without children, or any other life stage that may interest you!**  
**We are also looking for a coordinator to plan social nights for adults.**  
**Contact the church office to learn more!**



**Firm Foundation Campaign Goals:**

- \$50,000 starting funds for preservation and repair of Sanctuary Wing and Steeple (doors in the wings, brick work, water proofing, eavestroughs, flashing, etc)
- Cleaning, Organizing & Supplying Basement and Kitchen for ministry use
- Launching at least two smaller groups meeting monthly to improve church community and connection (one group for individuals/couples with children, one group for individuals/couples without children). Training and equipping leaders to see these through.



February's Mission Spotlight focus will be Vision Kitchen. Vision Kitchen is a ministry that serves hot meals to the South End Toledo community Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights at 5:30 pm. They also provide take-home boxes of food for families in need on a weekly basis.

Vision Kitchen is a place where the Body of Christ comes together to show love to the community with fellowship, a short message and good food!

Along with their food ministry, they also host a monthly giveaway in their dining hall that provides free clothing items, furniture, appliances, toys and more to their local community.

To give toward Church Camp scholarships, simply write "Mission Spotlight" on your envelope or check memo.



**Inclement Weather Announcement**

**Guidelines for Weather Cancellations at Trinity**

**Ottawa County Level 1:**  
Worship and church activities will be held as usual - please use common sense and precaution when traveling.

**Ottawa County Level 2:**  
All non-worship activities before and after worship are cancelled - this means no Sunday School/Branching Out, church dinners or meeting that may be scheduled, etc. The worship service will be held for those who choose to attend and feel they can travel safely. Please use common sense and precaution when traveling.

**Ottawa County Level 3:**  
No worship service or church-related activities

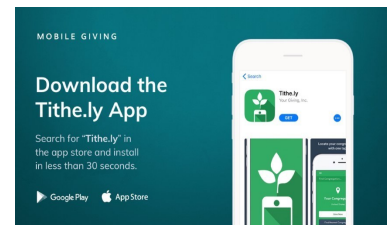
**How Do I Give to the Church and Its Ministries**  
Giving to your local church using [Tithe.ly](https://Tithe.ly) is super easy!

We offer a number of different ways to give to your church, as listed below:

**#1 - Give on your Church Website at [www.trinityelliston.org](http://www.trinityelliston.org)**  
Click on the link provided and it will take you to our secure Tithe.ly page to set up your contribution.

**#2 - Give Online**  
If you're on a computer (or any device with an internet connection), you can easily give to your church by heading to [Tithe.ly/Give](https://Tithe.ly/Give). Once there, search for your church, and fill in the giving form.

**#3 - Give in App**  
Want to give to your church using the convenience of your smartphone? No problem! Download the Tithe.ly App from the [App Store](https://www.apple.com/app-store/) (iPhone) or [Google Play Store](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.trinityelliston) (Android). Once you've downloaded the app, create an account or log in, locate your church and tap "Give Now" to complete your contribution!



## Easter Season Event Hosts Needed

Trinity is seeking event hosts for Easter activities. If you would like to help coordinate a gathering for food, fellowship, a craft or activity, please contact the church office.



## Join us for Easter 2024

Sunday, March 31st

7:00 am Sunrise Service  
8:00 am Easter Breakfast  
9:00 am Kids Easter Egg Hunt  
10:00 am Easter Worship

## Trinity Reminders and Answers to How Do I... and What's That For...Questions

### Drop Box Available

Need to leave a note or drop off offering when no one is in the office? There is a locked drop box available for you to use in the connecting unit hallway next to the water fountain (outside the coat room). The box is checked at least once each week.

### Got An Item To Submit For The Next Newsletter?

Do you have good news or thank you's to share? Drop a note off or email them to the church office by the 20th of each month!

### First Aid Equipment & Medical Supplies

There is first aid equipment and supplies in the basement kitchen for your use. There is also some first aid equipment in the kitchen pantry off the gym and an AED in the connecting hallway near the restrooms. We also are blessed to have many members in the health field who can assist as needed (and they've been needed!) at times.

We have been blessed with the donation of a few wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, slings, bandages, ice packs, etc. that would help in a medical situation in the building or for someone in immediate need. There is no need for additional donations at this time. Let me know if we can help in any way.

Thanks for all the support and understanding!  
Robin Hansen

### Use of the Church Hall or Basement

The church calendar of events is hanging on the wall outside the main office door. You can also view scheduled events on the church website calendar ([www.trinityelliston.org](http://www.trinityelliston.org)). If you would like to reserve the hall or basement take a form from the pouch under the calendar outside the main office, complete it and return it to the office to be scheduled. You are now required to fill out a form for any event that you would like to have in the church (including any rollover events from year to year for holiday parties). Please do not just write on the calendar - we ask you complete the form first. Once the form is reviewed we will add it to the calendar. If you have any questions, please contact Mary in the office.

### Trinity Logo Wear

You can now order items directly from [bit.ly/trinityunitedchurchofchrist](http://bit.ly/trinityunitedchurchofchrist). If the item you would like is not listed simply call R&R Identification at 419-355-8206 or visit their shop at 160 S OH 590 Fremont, OH 43420 and tell them what you would like with the Trinity Elliston logo on it and they will be happy to make it to your specifications.

### Table & Chair Sign Out

Sign-out sheet for tables and chairs is located in the closet across from the main office (on the back of the door). Contact the office to make sure you are on the list for the date you would like to use the tables and chairs. The only tables that are to leave the property are the older wooden style tables. The only chairs that are to leave the property are the wooden chairs. Both tables and chairs that may be taken out are located in the shed by the kitchen entry.



Pickleball has come to Trinity!

Equipment and net are stored in the gym closets.

Come and play anytime the gym is free or contact Michele Avery or Nyla Denman for more information.



Do you feel called to visit with some of our older congregation members? Handbooks are available to help you with conversation starters as you get to know some of our older congregation members. Contact Nancy Turnow for more information.

# Trinity UCC

# FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Hall: Reserved 1	Hall: Reserved 2	Hall: Reserved 3
<b>4</b> 9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Adult CC 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion & Kids Church Hall: Reserved Trustee: Brandon Kincaid	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 8:00 am Coffee Fellowship 7:00 pm Dartball @ Elmore St. Paul Methodist	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Adult CC 10:00 am Worship & Kids Church Trustee: Doug Avery	<b>12</b> 7:00 pm Church Council	<b>13</b> 8:00 am Coffee Fellowship 7:00 pm Dartball @ Rocky Ridge St. John	<b>14</b> 12:00 pm Happy Hobby Garden Club (Coffee Room/Kitchen)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Adult CC 10:00 am Worship & Kids Church Trustee: Marty Hoefl	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 8:00 am Coffee Fellowship 7:00 pm Dartball @ home vs Elliston Zion UMC Tidings Info Due	<b>21</b> 6:00 pm Church & Soup & Salad Dinner 6:30 pm Mission Team Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Hall: 4-H 10am to 12pm
<b>25</b> 9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Adult CC 10:00 am Worship & Kids Church 5:00 pm Wittman Small Group Trustee: Brandon Kincaid	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8:00 am Coffee Fellowship 7:00 pm Dartball @ Millbury St. Peter UCC	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>		

**There's a place for you here!**

**CONNECT**

**GROW**

**SERVE**



**trinity**  
united church of Christ

**419-862-3417**  
**TrinityElliston.org**

**Join us in person or via livestream on Sunday mornings**

**Sunday School**  
**9:00 am**  
Nursery through  
Adult Classes

**Sunday Worship**  
**10:00 am**  
Nursery & Kids'  
Church Available

Hearing Assistance Devices  
Available  
from the  
Tech Booth  
Upon Request



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Instagram: [trinityellistonucc](https://instagram.com/trinityellistonucc)  
YouTube: [TrinityElliston](https://YouTube.com/TrinityElliston)  
Livestream: [trinityelliston.org/livestream](https://trinityelliston.org/livestream)

Pastor: Ryan Shields  
Pastor's Email: [ryandshields@outlook.com](mailto:ryandshields@outlook.com)

Children's Ministry Director: Janene Lattimore  
Janene's Email: [janenelattimore11@gmail.com](mailto:janenelattimore11@gmail.com)