

Trinity UCC
17955 West 3rd Street
Elliston, OH 43432
tucc1862@gmail.com



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News From Pastor Ryan:

A PART OF THE FAMILY

Hello church! I hope this letter finds you well! It has been nice to return to some degree of “normal” over the last month! I am so thankful to God for the wonderful members of this church who have been kind, loving, and patient as our ministry programs resume! What a blessing! We want to thank all the members of our Council, Ministry Teams, and volunteers who have been committed to finding a way forward for the vision of Trinity during these days! Please continue to pray that God will give us clear eyes to see where we fit in His Kingdom during the days ahead!

On that subject, I want to introduce to you our theme for September, “Being a Church Member”. Before we found ourselves dealing with a pandemic, I was about to teach a class on church membership. In fact, the Council was in discussions of what it meant to be a church member in terms of our constitution. Is church membership measurable? Is it as simple as things like attendance, giving, and taking communion? Or is it more? What does church membership look like for many of our congregation who are not yet able to attend worship? How can I be a good church member if I attend digitally?

These are all questions we will look at as we explore church membership in the weeks ahead. I begin this journey by asking you who read this: do you want to be a church member? Even if you’ve been a member for years, do you still want to be? Are you committed to keeping the church healthy and functioning? Are you committed to bring unity to our church? Do you dream of the future of our church and desire to support it? Do you view your church membership as a burden or a treasure? Will you pray for all of us? These qualities are at the heart of being a church member. We are a family united in the bonds of Jesus Christ who seek to spread the Gospel to our community. We are not just a collection of individuals; we are the People of God.

Being a church member is different from joining a country club or a bowling league. Believing that Jesus died to save us from our sin, we unite as the people of God to join in the sacred work that continues! Salvation is a gift we receive from God, and when we receive that gift we become a part of a holy family. Membership of the church, therefore, is not a legalistic obligation, but a holy blessing! We are not alone. We are not abandoned. We have received a great gift! Just as there are no perfect people, there is no perfect church! Only Christ is perfect, so a healthy church seeks each day to move closer and closer to Him!

Do you have your place in the church? Are you an active part of the good work that Trinity is called to? I think you are! God has called many different types of people together for His purpose! I pray that we continue to work together and grow together that ALL may hear of the glory of our God!

“Just as a body is one whole made up of many different parts, and all the different parts comprise the one body, so it is with Christ. 13 We were all ceremonially washed through baptism together into one body by one Spirit. No matter our heritage—Jew or Greek, insider or outsider—no matter our status—oppressed or free—we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Here’s what I mean: the body is not made of one large part but of many different parts.”

-1 Corinthians 12:12-14 (The Voice)

-Pastor Ryan



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- ♦ September 13th Branching Out starts back up
- ♦ September 14th at 7pm Church Council
- ♦ September 23rd TUCC 101 at 7:00pm

PASTOR RYAN VACATION

Pastor Ryan will be on vacation from Aug 31—Sept 6. If you have a pastoral need, please contact the church office. Pastors from St. John’s UCC Genoa are available to cover any immediate needs.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

The Trinity United Church of Christ, Elliston Church Council met on Monday, July 13th, 2020. At 7:04 pm. Nyla Denman, President, called meeting to order, and Pastor Ryan Shields opened with prayer. Those in attendance were as follows:

President Nyla Denman, Bonnie Weaver, Nate Diekman, Troy Wittman, Marty Hoeft, Brad Jess, Jayson Hayes, Jim Buhro, Ed Gahler, Pastor Ryan Shields, and Church Secretary Rhonda Mahaney were present. Vice President Desirae McCloskey, Eric Gahler, and Faith Sutter were not present.

Reports:

Recording Secretary: Meeting minutes from the June council meetings were read prior to the meeting by members. Motion to accept the minutes were made by first Nate D, second by Brad J, MC.

Secretary Report:

Photo Directory was submitted to them, waiting for a draft to be returned for review

PPP Loan forgiveness application was submitted and are waiting to hear back on if it was approved.

Rhonda will be on vacation July 20-24

Financial Report:

Approval of financial report by first Bonnie W, and second by Troy W, MC.

Pastor Report:

There were 4 losses for the church during the last month. They livestreaming upgrades have been a wise investment. We have received several thank you letters/notes thankful that we are continuing to offer the live stream. We are only seeing about 20% of a regular attendance each Sunday here in the building. Would like to thank Rev. Corbin for presiding over Lavonna's funeral and Brent Kreager for being guest speaker on 7/12. Turnow's pond weekend will look different this year. We are still working on plans, but it will not be on Sunday morning. Stay tuned for more information. Rhonda and I are volunteering to help host the NWOA Annual virtual conference on August 1st.

Committee Reports:

Trustee Report

The outside sensor lights have been turned off during the bug season. Rhonda will turn them back on once the bug season has ended.

Washing of the gym walls has been put on hold

Pastoral Relations

Meet last month and did a review for Ryan so he could send it to the Association for his annual license renewal.

Other committees – have a meeting scheduled for July or August to get back in the swing of things.

Old Business:

Corbin Recognition – we will still plan on holding something at a later date

Roof insulation – project is on hold

New Business:

Audit Committee meet and completed over half of the audit and found no issues. We will get with Desirae to have her maybe complete her half via email.

Oak Harbor Area Food Pantry Garden – we were asked if we would be willing to let them install some raised garden beds to use to grow produce for the food pantry. They would maintain and upkeep and tend to the garden. Troy motioned that we allow them to do so, with the understanding that we would have representation there to help set the beds were we would like them. Nate D 2nd. MC

A large donation of \$10,000 was given to the church with very little direction as to what to use it for. We will be putting some of it towards Missions. The rest we had discussed the possibility of putting into a new Air Conditioner fund or a building maintenance fund. Several of the current memorials may also want to put their money towards the AC Fund. More quotes are needed and should be brought to next month's meeting to give us a better direction.

Motion to adjourn meeting by first Jim B, and second by Troy W, MC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm by Nyla Denman.

Respectfully submitted, Rhonda Mahaney, Administrative Assistant.

IN PERSON WORSHIP GUIDELINES

Here will be the guidelines and recommendations for returning to in person worship:

1. Everyone planning to attend is asked to prescreen themselves and to stay home if they have any signs of illness (including a fever, cough, chills, headache, sore throat), pre-existing conditions that make them exceptionally vulnerable, or are otherwise uncomfortable with large gatherings for any other reason.
2. The sanctuary is currently marked off to allow for some social distancing as we return to in-person worship. We encourage social distancing; however, we will leave to you and your family the discretion of distance between others. If you are comfortable sitting near a friend or neighbor, we will not ask you to move. Please be respectful of other people's space as you enter and exit the sanctuary. We will not limit capacity in the Sanctuary and instead encourage you to use your best judgment.
3. Masks are encouraged, but not required, especially when entering and exiting the building.
4. Singing is a point of much debate. The current medical recommendation is to not sing, as singing creates a larger spread of contaminating droplets. However, the Council has agreed that part of returning to in-person worship is agreeing to take on these risks. We will allow singing in the sanctuary; we do ask that if you plan to sing you STRONGLY consider wearing a mask to limit spread.
5. Children's activities such as Branching Out and upfront Children's moment will be on pause for the time being. Each service will still contain a child specific element that can be enjoyed from the congregation.
6. Certain rituals that involve touch or passing of plates will be paused. We will not have regular in-person communion for the time being. Offering will be collected in boxes at the front or the back of the Sanctuary. There will be no hand-shake/greeting time.
7. Both main entryways will be opened with doors propped. We intend to limit contact at the entryways.
8. While all bathrooms are available, in order to make cleaning and sanitizing easier, we ask you to consider using the 2 main bathrooms near the North doors.
9. You may notice Pastor Ryan or a volunteer taking attendance of specific individuals present. If a member of the congregation were to contract Covid-19 we would want to be able to announce to the congregation, and personally contact those who were in church with this individual. Our goal is to not suspend in person services again.
10. Members of the church are welcome to use the building again for small group activities. We ask that you make a reservation so we can maintain a clear account for who is in the building. Depending on the time of your activity, a small cleaning fee may be accessed.

General Operating Fund Report (approved)

Beginning 7/1/20	\$34,699.68
Offering/Income	\$11,056.83
Transfers	(\$1,500.00)
Expenses	\$6,879.47
Balance 7/31/2020	\$37,377.04

We have created a direct link on our website for our weekly services!

If Facebook would happen to have any issues, please use the link below to find the service.

<http://www.trinityelliston.org/livestream.html>

Full financial reports are available upon request in the office and are now posted on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Memorial Thank You

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Betty Kadlick. We would like to thank the following for their memorials given in her name.

Women's Fellowship

Memorial Thank You

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Ken Gahler. We would like to thank the following for their memorials given in her name.

Women's Fellowship,
Jay Hellwig Families

Memorial Thank You

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of LaVonna Bittner. We would like to thank the following for their memorials given in her name.

Don Bittner, John & Jackie Bast

From Trinity Tidings of Years Gone By —

December 1951

State Honor gained by Ottawa County 4-H'er

Congratulations go to Doyle Sommer for his recent achievement in being named state winner of the Soil and Water Conservation contest for 1951. Among his awards was a two-weeks paid trip to the International Livestock Exhibition in Chicago. We are proud to claim Doyle as one of our loyal workers in the Youth Fellowship and Church School. Keep up the good work Doyle!

November 1951

Choir Director

Marilyn Appelhans has consented to be our Choir Director. Your pastor felt inadequate for the task and therefore asked Marilyn to help us. Let us all give her whole-hearted support and show our appreciation to her for her fine work.

April 1953

Service Men Corner

In addition to the letter, which was read at Youth Fellowship, Myron Zibbel sent us another letter in which he enclosed a snapshot of himself. Here is the letter:

"I want to thank the Church for the package that I received. It had a lot of useful things and the candy was good too. We are not supposed to chew gum, but we do during the off hours. Most of the guys do not receive packages from their church and they thought that it was pretty nice when they saw what I had received. It makes it a lot easier on the pocketbook too, because there are a lot of things you have to buy when you first get in the army. We receive \$73 a month pay which is okay if you spend it in the right way. You just can't buy everything that you would like to have. Thanks again." Sincerely yours, Myron. Fort Knox, Kentucky

TUCC 101:

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE BELIEVE

September 23rd @ 7:00 PM online and in person

On September 23rd at 7:00 PM Pastor Ryan will present "TUCC 101" online through our streaming platforms and in person in the sanctuary. TUCC 101 will be a membership class to help new, prospective, or long-term members become familiar with the history of the church, the denomination, and our faith practice. The information presented on this night would be an excellent starting point for those who wish to become members, and a wonderful refresher for long-term members! Please consider joining us to learn more about the history and the structure of our church and denomination.



BRANCHING OUT NEWS TEACHERS

A few notes in regards to Branching Out Procedures:

- Kids will sit in the front pews in church with the teacher of the week. X's will be placed on the pews so kids know how far apart to sit.
- Kindergarten and up need to wear masks
- We will wash hands when coming into the classroom and leaving the classroom
- NO FOOD Activities
- A waiver and information sheet MUST be filled out prior to sending your kids down to Branching Out.

Date	2-3 Nursery	PreK Teacher	K-2 Teacher
Week 1	Rebecca R.	Desirae M.	Kylene L.
Week 2		Brittany W.	Janene L.
Week 3		Ashley G.	Ashley Z.
Week 4		Casi J.	

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact a member of the EFY committee or Janene Lattimore.

***Branching Out is back
starting September 13th!***

Christian Education News!!!!!!

BENEVOLENCE GIVINGS SO FAR THIS YEAR

We would like to thank everyone for continuing your support for our Benevolence this year. Because of your financial contributions, we have been able to send out to the following organizations.

We look forward to supporting those and many others through out this year.

THANK YOU

“Thank you so much for your continued support. Without your help we could not continue to help those in need. Thanks again and God Bless You.”

~The BCS Food Pantry

“Dear Trinity Family—Thank you for your help with the hall the prayers and support during this difficult time.”

~The Lewis, Daniel & Groll Families

“Thank you so much for your recent contribution to the Genoa Area Community Food Pantry. In this troubling time we are experience, this donation will help the food pantry to continue its mission of serving community members in need.”

~Genoa Area Community Food Pantry

SEPTEMBER MISSION SPOTLIGHT

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENT

TUCC Missions & Outreach Team is planning a movie night at the Sundance Kid Drive-In in early October! While arrangements are still being made, we are partnering with other UCC churches in the area to provide a free fun night out for our church families!

Please stay tuned for more information.

Our Mission Spotlight for this month is:

Ruth Ann's House of Port Clinton

Ruth Ann's house is a transitional housing shelter for women and children who are the victims of domestic violence. Ruth Ann's house currently has transitional housing available for six women and their children. Individuals and families can stay at RAH up to two years while working with staff on an individualized plan that addresses the client's needs and/or barriers. RAH's primary mission is to provide residency and supportive services to women and children needing to step away from an abusive situation. The ultimate goal of RAH is to transition the residents into permanent housing. Ongoing support is available to those who choose to maintain involvement. Ruth Ann's House also offers support groups and informational opportunities for the women and families to develop skills to make the necessary changes that encourage and facilitate self-sufficiency. Residency at RAH is not a requirement for joining certain support groups or workshops.

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Trinity UCC

17955 W 3rd Street
Elliston, OH 43432

Phone: 419-862-3417

E-mail: tucc1862@gmail.com

Facebook:

[trinityunitedchurchofchristElliston](https://www.facebook.com/trinityunitedchurchofchristElliston)

YouTube: Trinity Elliston

Website: trinityelliston.org

Pastor Ryan Shields

ryandshields@outlook.com

419-410-5309

