

Trinity United Church of Christ,
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News from Pastor Kyle

Happy New Year!

It is with great anticipation that I write this as my family and I look forward to beginning our ministry at Trinity. One of the things I've learned over the years is that a pastor should never make changes in his new position for at least a year. While I have no changes (other than removing all the Ohio State items in my office), I will be bringing a lot of new and exciting ideas that will hopefully spark more interest and activity around the church and the community.

Before I get too busy planning those activities and events, my first priority is to get to know all of you better. I want each of you to feel free to contact me via email or phone, or simply stop in the office for a chat. If you'd like me to pay you a visit, all you have to do is ask. More importantly, I desire to be a part of your lives....the good and the bad. If you have any specific prayer requests or joys, please don't hesitate to contact me. Additionally, if you are planning on having a surgery, please let me know. I will keep things confidential, but I simply want to be mindful of what each of you are going through and offer the ministry of presence, if needed.

As we kick off the New Year, I'm going to be focusing on some sermons on the importance of God's Word and how it produces wisdom in our lives. I strongly encourage your attendance at each week's service and look forward to getting to know all of you soon.

Pastor Kyle

Faith Formation Classes -

Beginning Wednesday, February 3rd at 6:30 pm, Pastor Kyle will be leading a Faith Formations class for all ages. This open-discussion style class will talk about the basics of our faith and what we believe.

Youth Group (Grades 6-12)

Gathering - On Sunday, January 31st from 6 to 8 pm, all youth and their friends are invited for a fun evening at the Trinity UCC gym. Bring a snack and beverage to share with others and be prepared for dodge ball, kick ball, or other fun games.

Mark Your Calendars!

Camp

MICHINDOH!!! Mark the date now and plan to come to the next Camp Fellowship Event. January 22-24, 2016



Valentine's Day

Dinner On Sunday, February 14th, Trinity United Church of Christ will host a Valentine's Day Spaghetti dinner at 5 pm. Tickets are \$10 a person, or \$20 a couple and will include a spaghetti dinner with meatballs, bread, salad, and a dessert.

Additionally, following dinner, everyone will be entertained by interacting in a game of "The Not-So-Newlywed" Game.

Tickets will be on sale in early January in the church office.



Church Council Minutes

The Trinity United Church of Christ, Elliston Church Council met on November 9th, 2015 at 7:00 pm. Amy Mathews, Vice President called meeting to order at 7:05 pm. and Ron Giesler opened with prayer. Those in attendance were as follows:

President – Janene Lattimore, Vice President – Amy Mathews, Recording Secretary – Desirae McCloskey, Deacons – Dwayne Hoeft, Elders - Ken Gahler and Jayson Hayes, Trustees – Ron Giesler, Brice Gahler and Doug Avery. Church secretary Rhonda Mahaney was present as well.

Reports:

Recording Secretary: Meeting minutes from the last council meeting on 10/12/2015 and the meeting minutes from the Congregational meeting on 10/18/2015 were read prior to the meeting. Motion to accept the minutes for the past meeting was made by Amy Mathews, 2nd by Brice Gahler. MC. Motion to accept the minutes for the congregational meeting was made by Brice Gahler, 2nd by Dwayne Hoeft. MC.

Secretary Report: The following items were discussed:

- Computer has been updated to the Church Windows program and Rhonda is currently working through the updates to the program
- Balance of Benevolence needs to be reviewed to determine where the money will be donated by year end
- 2016 budget needs to be prepared and approved by the congregational meeting on December 13th

Pastor Report: No pastor report.

Financial Report: Financial information was reviewed. Amy Mathews moved to accept the financial report. Jayson Hayes 2nd. MC.

Committee Reports:

Worship –

- Still needs help with services up until the Pastor starts in January.

EFY –

- They are still looking for one volunteer to help teach, therefore each teacher having a commitment once a month. There is a sign-up sheet outside of the branching out room for those interested to sign up to teach a Sunday. Therefore, if this is not filled, there will be no branching out that Sunday. As a reminder, the ages for branching out are from two to twelve.
- Ordered the winter instructors packet for branching out.

Mission –

- The November 8th for the family movie day at the church went very well.
- The Christmas program will be held on December 6th with a spaghetti dinner to follow.
- Ashley Zimmerman will be the Missions chair next year.

Church & Ministry – No update to provide.

Search Committee – Amy spoke with Association regarding installation of Kyle Timmons, the new pastor. Installation is to occur three months after Kyle starts. We will plan this installation for a Sunday afternoon with snacks/drinks, date TBD.

The welcome gift for the installation service will be a portable communion set, in order for him to use in providing communion outside of the church.

The committee is also planning on sending two baskets to Kyle and his family. One in November (welcome basket) which will be family themed. This basket will also include pastoral information (review and expectations, vacation/time off policy). The second basket will be sent in December.

The committee also had a 'Thank you' week the week of November 2 for Rhonda, as Rhonda was key to the success of the search committee.

Estate Committee – Have met a couple of times to discuss different options, looking for one more person to join the committee. Currently

reviewing different options, which were discussed. However, nothing to report.

Trustee Report – Heating problems have been resolved in the sanctuary with the assistance of Kaylor, a few minor items to still be worked on. Parsonage: A sewer problem was noted and was fixed by Kaylor, as well as the furnace being serviced. There has also been historic leaking around the chimney – Mike Wright looked at the roof and recommended it needed to be replaced, however can be held off until Spring 2016. He did make minor adjustments to the chimney area.

The renters of the parsonage are very interested in purchasing the parsonage.

Discussion was held regarding the next steps. A suggestion was made to create a committee to develop a plan going forward regarding the status of parsonage. Jayson Hayes and Doug Avery volunteered to be on the committee.

The sanctuary doors have been fixed.

Old Business:

Movement of Sound Board – Movement of sound board is still in progress.

New Business:

Payment of Sound Assistants – Motion was made by Ron Geisler to take \$25 weekly from coffee and donuts money to pay the sound assistance. Amy Mathews second.

Congregational meeting on December 13th will include 1) reviewing and approving of the 2016 budget and 2) the nominations for the open positions for council.

Desirae McCloskey moved and Brice Gahler 2nd to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm by Janene Lattimore.

Respectfully submitted, Desirae McCloskey,
Recording Secretary

Church Council Minutes

The Trinity United Church of Christ, Elliston Church Council met on November 29th, 2015 at 10:30 am to review the 2016 proposed budget. Janene Lattimore, President called meeting to order.

Those present were President – Janene Lattimore, Financial Secretary – Veronica McMonigle, Recording Secretary – Desirae McCloskey, Deacons – Dwayne Hoeft and Eric

Gahler, Elders - Ken Gahler and Jayson Hayes, Trustees –Ron Giesler, Dale Bodnar, Brice Gahler and Doug Avery.

Veronica McMonigle , Financial Secretary, passed out the 2016 church budget for approval by council. Discussion was held regarding various lines of the budget, no changes to report. Motion to accept the 2016 church budget as presented was made by Brice Gahler, 2nd by Ron Giesler. MC.

A request was made by Rhonda for approval to add the Payroll Module to the Church computer program. There is a \$300 one-time fee, as well as a yearly \$399 support fee. This will provide support and updates for processing payroll for the church, as well as transfer the responsibility from Rhonda to the Payroll Module administrator. Motion to approve the purchase of the Payroll Module was made by Eric Gahler, 2nd by Dale Bodnar. MC.

Meeting adjourned by Janene Lattimore.

Respectfully submitted, Desirae McCloskey,
Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report (approved)

General Operating Fun

Balance as of 11/1/15	\$13,408.98
Offerings/Income	\$8,595.24
Expenses	\$7,130.46
Balance as of 11/30/15	\$14,873.76

Offering Envelopes

2016 offering envelopes are located at the back of the church, please pick up yours today.

There were some reordering of numbers, so you may not have the same number as previous years.

Congregational Meeting - December 13th, 2015

\$5 offerings

The following items were discussed during the congregational meeting held on December 13th, 2015:

1. The 2016 financial budget as presented to the congregation for approval. No discussion was held relative to the budget presented. Ed Gahler motioned to accept the 2016 financial budget as presented, seconded by Jayson Hayes. 2016 financial budget approved by the majority vote of congregation. MC
2. The 2016 slate for church council was presented to the congregation as follows:
 - Vice President - Ed Gahler
 - Financial Secretary - Nyla Denman
 - Elder - Connie Gahler
 - Trustees - Marty Hoeft & Steve Turnow
 - Deacon - Jim Buhro

Fay Bolander motioned to accept the 2016 slate for church council as presented, seconded by Brice Gahler. 2016 slate for church council approved by majority vote of congregation. MC

3. Janene Lattimore brought the potential of selling or removing the church parsonage to the congregation, as this topic item has been discussed at council meeting the last couple of years. Therefore, wanted to inform the congregation of the discussion held as well as the committee that is forming to assist with the decision making. All of those interested in being on the committee shall contact Doug Avery or Ron Geisler, who are the two current members on the committee. No discussion was held relative to this item.

Meeting adjourned by Janene Lattimore.

Respectfully submitted, Desirae McCloskey,
Recording Secretary

While the \$5 offerings will continue to bless local individuals and families as needed, there are often times where we are searching for places for the \$5 offerings to go to. Therefore, council has decided that we will have a monthly "Mission Partner" and our weekly \$5 offerings will go towards that partner (unless we have a more pressing need during a specific time).

In January, our \$5 offering will go towards "Socks for Hannah". Hannah's Socks is a community based non-profit organization dedicated to helping people affected by homelessness, poverty and domestic abuse in Ohio and Southeast Michigan. What began as the simple, intuitive wish of a four-year old girl to give a homeless man her socks has blossomed into a successful, nationally-recognized program that has helped hundreds of thousands of people in need and raised the awareness of how a simple act can change the face of poverty and homelessness in our region.

Our \$5 offering will be given to support Hannah's mission. You can learn more by visiting www.hannahssocks.org

Branching Out

We are still in need of teachers (Men can teach also!). There is a sign up sheet outside the classroom. Please consider this once a month commitment, if you do sign up, please let the office know and Rhonda will get you the needed material.

Also - Branching Out is in need of drinks of any kind.

Women's Fellowship

Trinity Women's Fellowship met on Thursday December 10, 2015 at noon for the Christmas pot-luck.

Marilyn A. began with prayer for the day & season and the table blessing. We then enjoyed a delicious pot-luck meal.

For the devotions, we used the final chapter of the book "The Power of a Praying Woman" which we have now finished. This chapter was a message to all of us, preparing us for our future with God. We should invest in our future, pray and obey.

We had a business meeting. We dispensed with reading of minutes. The treasurer's report was given accepted & will be filed. The new sound system in the Fellowship Hall has been paid for (\$622.12).

We received a Thank You letter from Cherry Street Mission for our donation.

Twelve ladies attended the Christmas Program & Brunch at St. John's Lutheran Church, Rocky Ridge and ten-twelve attended the Ecumenical Christmas at St. Peters Lutheran Church, Blackberry.

Norma R. gave the Sunshine report. The new chairman will be Ina D.

Prayer partners were revealed and new names drawn.

We had a discussion on our meetings and decided that as of the beginning of the New Year we will meet at 1:00 pm and just have dessert. That meeting will be on Thursday January 14, 2016. Program - Eloise H. Host - Suzanne B.

Meeting Adjourned.

We then had a Christmas program with hymns & readings, one being "The Gift You Can Give Yourself" an A to Z list of ways to turn Christmas into a blessing rather than a burden.

Following that we concluded with a gift exchange.

~Submitted by Suzanne Buhro, Secretary.

WF Treasurer's Report	
Balance on Hand as of Nov 1	\$862.27
Offering	\$13.00
From Savings	\$200.00
Total Income & Balance	\$1075.27
ISOH Impact	\$100.00
Cherry Street Mission	\$100.00
Salvation Army	\$100.00
Trinity UCC Sound	\$622.12
Total Expenses	(\$922.12)
Balance on Hand Nov 30th	\$153.15
Savings Account	\$1,516.03

Thank You

"Thank you so much for our gift basket. We greatly appreciate it."

~The Timmons Family

"Thank you so much for the Christmas bag of goodies. We greatly appreciate your generosity toward our family."

~The Timmons Family

"Thank you very much for your generous contributions to the Ottawa County Holiday Bureau. We are grateful for your interest and support. Without your assistance, it would be impossible to continue this program. God Bless You and Merry Christmas!"

~The Ottawa County Holiday Bureau

"Many Thanks for the large group of carolers and their many joyous songs. We appreciate the very good cookies too. Bless You."

~Melvin & Norma

"A BIG thank you to my friends who after 50 years still remembered my with birthday cards for my 90th birthday. Blessings to all of you."

~Marilyn Homeister

Trinity Lending Cupboard

Greetings Trinity Family! I would like to share a couple things regarding your donations of medical supplies. There is now a small area in the basement kitchen cupboard area with a few items in case you have a need for them. Right now there's a few arm slings, bandages, tapes, etc. in case of emergency at church or weekend, holiday, or urgent need. Please feel free to take something IF needed. If it can be cleaned and returned, that would be superb.

Please see me or call me if questions. I'll do my best to help out wherever I can. Thanks again for your donations that made this possible.

Robin Hansen



Do you think your church is pretty great?

If you do, why keep it a secret?

(From "16 Ways to Say "I Love My Church" produced by THE UCC Writers' Group)

Most Church members talk about their church only to other members of the church. But they already know about your church! If you found a

great restaurant, you'd tell people about it. If you read a good book or saw a good movie, you'd tell people. So why not tell people about your church?

If your church adds value to your life, share it! Church should add more value than a great restaurant! Let the world, or just one other person, in on the secret: "I Love my church." Here are some ways a few of us have found to say we love our church....

1. I love my church because it's sort of like The Wizard of Oz - it's about having a heart and a brain. And courage!
2. I love my church because when we cried together on September 11th, we cried for the whole world.
3. I love my church because the Sunday school teacher gives out prizes to the kid who asks the best questions.
4. You know, if you want a church where you can pretend for an hour or two that everything is just fine with you, with your family, and with the world, and then we're probably not for you. But if you want a church where you can tell the truth about how it is and know that it's okay, maybe you'll find a home here.
5. What I love about the UCC is that it's about Jesus - not just Jesus who's on our side, but Jesus who calls us to walk by his side.
6. I'm single and I love my church because it's the only place I don't feel like I need to buy a family size to belong.

(This series will continue in each Tidings)

Greeters

<u>January</u>		
3	North	Doug & Tammy Asher
	South	Cathy Asher
10	North	Doug Jr & Michelle Avery
	South	Doug Avery Sr
17	North	Ron & Elizabeth Ayotte
	South	Steve & Blanche Batesole
24	North	Don & Lavonna Bittner
	South	Fay Bolander
31	North	Jeff Bast
	South	John & Jackie Bast
<u>February</u>		
7 th	North	Dale & Ava Bodnar
	South	Ruth Burris
14 th	North	Suzanne Buhro
	South	Jim & Shirley Buhro
21 st	North	Carol Cheatham
	South	Susie Wittman
28 th	North	Russell Cheatham
	South	Ina David
<u>March</u>		
6 th	North	Lee David
	South	Ray & Ann David
13 th	North	Richard & Nyla Denman
	South	Mike & Ann Diekman
20 th	North	Nate Diekman
	South	Zachary Diekman
27 th	North	Dave & Tracey Dresser
	South	Marvin & Dorothy Gackstetter

Prayer Concerns

We are bringing back this section of the Tidings. Please notify the office by phone or email if you have a prayer concern that you would like added to the list. Also, please make sure to let us know when you would like us to remove your request from the list.

Members in Need of Prayer Include:

Steve & Blanche Batesole; Jackie Bast; LaVonna Bittner; Hope Bauman;



Community Members in Need of Prayer:

Rev. Dan Busch (recovering at home from surgery), Cliff Munger

Also pray that God helps this congregation as we begin a time of transition.

Food Pantry

Let's remember to continue to support the food pantry as they will need to restock before the holidays. Let's see about collecting canned vegetables for the month!



News from the Woods

(newsletter on bulletin board)

"We are getting ready to celebrate Christmas, or as it's called around here - New Year Holiday. There are decorations, trees, and Santa's hanging all around. Commercialism has spread far outside of America. What also has spread is fear. Everyone is responding in so many different ways, but I think it all stems from this: we are so afraid. Reminds me of the story in Luke 2. In our day, you and us - we are the ones who have tidings of great joy to share with all peoples!"

~The Woods

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YouTube: Trinity UCC Elliston

Mission

Promote Faith, Family and Fellowship through
the Father, Son & Holy Spirit!

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.trinityuccelliston.org

Message from the Office

By Rhonda Mahaney

Thank you to everyone for the Christmas goodies and I hope that everyone had a merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

"Treasure the smiles, good times and memories, Leave behind the disappointments, hard-times and enemies, Hold onto Faith, Hope and Beliefs, and may your New Year be filled with Love, Joy & Peace!"

~Jennifer Gayle

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