

Trinity UCC
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News From Pastor Ryan:

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

It's, of course, that time of year when everyone makes New Year's Resolutions! Everybody wants to get into better shape, read more, spend less time on phones or watching TV. There's any number of positive life changes that people are trying to make! Sadly, we know many of us will struggle to keep up these changes and soon settle back into our old ways.

As a church, I always want us moving forward. We want to always be looking for where God is calling us next, both congregationally and individually. The church recently approved the establishment of a 2030 committee designed to brainstorm and research positive pathways forward for the next 10 years to help us living out our mission!

But what is our mission? Like all churches, we are called to make disciples! Jesus said *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* (Matthew 28:19-20). Built into our Christian faith is the idea that we go out into the world and teach others about Jesus and help them grow in faith. In fact, we walk alongside them! As we grow in faith, we help others grow in faith! In theory, this means we are working together as a community, worshipping God, teaching others, growing together and serving that community. This is why to start the year I'm teaching on our 2020 Vision. We're going to be disciple makers. Everyone is in a different place on their faith journey. We might be strong in one area of faith, but need work in another. I see four areas that we should be working, as a church and individuals, to strengthen our faith.

COME: This is the vital first step. We have to come to church (if able, more on that later). There are so many people in our area who are hurting. They are searching for their identity and a place to belong. They are searching for hope. We believe that hope comes in Jesus Christ. But, most of them will need invited in. Were you invited to our church? Have you ever invited others? Finding people in our community who need to experience Jesus is important to the goal of disciple making!

CONNECT: It's not enough to just share the same space with someone. We want to connect with people, and connect people with God. There's a difference between being invited somewhere, and truly belonging. We want to create opportunities to grow in friendship and fellowship, and also engage in vibrant worship and prayer to God. This connection point is the difference between being a "collection of people" vs. a "community of people".

GROW: Maybe you do come to church. Maybe you even feel very much connected to what goes on. But are you growing? Are you studying God's word more deeply? Are you learning new things? Are you finding new expressions of worship? We believe that God creates a newness within us, and in that newness growth happens! Growth might mean we react differently at home, at school, or at work because of how God is working in us. Growth means we are ready to take the next steps of faith.

GO: Once we've been invited, connected, and has some growth, we realize that the Bible tells us to GO OUT! We become the recipients of the Great Commission! "Go and make disciples". It also means service! When we more fully understand the Gospel message, we are compelled to go out and share the Kingdom of God with others. We want to share love, hope, and serve all around us that they may know the goodness of our God! *"Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant."* (Mark 10:43)

This is the vision I have for a path to discipleship. It's no uncommon for people to have skipped a step along the way. It's not uncommon for people to get stuck somewhere either! On our faith journey we will often find ourselves cycling through one phase or the another. It is my prayer that in 2020 we all take the next step in our faith to be full disciples of Christ! Happy New Year!

Pastor Ryan Shields



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- ◆ January 4th—Ellis Ministries Women's Conference
- ◆ January 5th—Men's Breakfast & THRIVE
- ◆ January 19th—THRIVE
- ◆ January 26th—Annual Meeting & Potluck
- ◆ January 31—February 2—Camp Michindoh

WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION

Jan. 5th—A 2020 Vision

Jan. 12th— “The Book of James: Genuine Faith”

Jan. 19th— “The Book of James: Taming the Tongue”

Jan. 26th— “The Book of James: True Wisdom”

Feb. 2nd.— “ The Book of James: Restoring Others”

Want To Help Out?

We are also looking for Greeters, Liturgists, and Musicians for Sunday morning.

We are looking for a more community feel to our Worship Services.

If you are interested, please let the office know.

HALL USE RESERVATIONS

There are forms on the wall next to the calendar. You are now required to fill out a form for any event that you would like to have in the church (including any rollover event for holiday parties-rollover dates will be allowed, but we would like the forms filled out as well). Please do not just write it on the calendar any more. Once it is reviewed, it will be added to the calendar. If you have any questions, please contact Rhonda.

GREETERS

January 5th

Doug & Michelle Avery

January 12th

John & Jackie Bast

January 19th

Dale & Ava Bodnar

January 26th

Jim & Shirley Buhro

February 2nd

Suzanne Buhro & Ken Gahler

February 9th

Mike & Ann Diekman

February 16th

Ed & Jane Gahler

February 23rd

Dan & Connie Gahler



CALLING ALL GREETERS

In the early new year, we will plan to coordinate with Greeters on schedule and procedures going forward. If you are interested in being a Greeter, please speak to Pastor Ryan.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of Trinity UCC will be on Sunday January 26th, 2020 at 10:30 am with a potluck lunch to follow.



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

HEAT: Please remember to turn the heat down to 58 (or turn it off) after you are finished in the rooms and close the door. Everyone can help with this cost-saving; it's not a new idea.

THRIVE

(3RD—6TH GRADE)

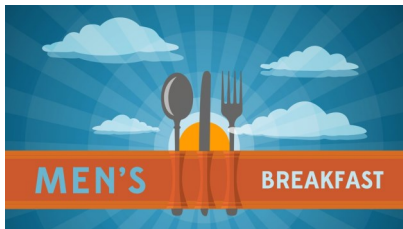
Will be meeting the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month after the 9:30 worship service. This is a group for our 3rd—6th grade youth to dig deeper into scripture and community.



BRANCHING OUT NEWS TEACHERS

Date	2-3 Nursery	PreK Teacher	K-2 Teacher
January 5th		Desirae M.	Rebecca R.
January 12th		Ashley G.	Kylene L.
January 19th		Ashley Z.	Janene L.
January 26th		Brittany W.	Mathews

Christian Education News!!!!



Men's Breakfast Is Back!!!! Men are invited to join us on Sunday, January 5th at 7:30am for the first breakfast of the season. If you are interested in serving a meal, or would like more information, please contact Ed G.

TITHE.LY

Giving to your local church using [Tithe.ly](https://tithely.com) is super easy! We offer a number of different ways to give to your church, which we'll outline in this article.

#1 - GIVE ON YOUR CHURCH WEBSITE

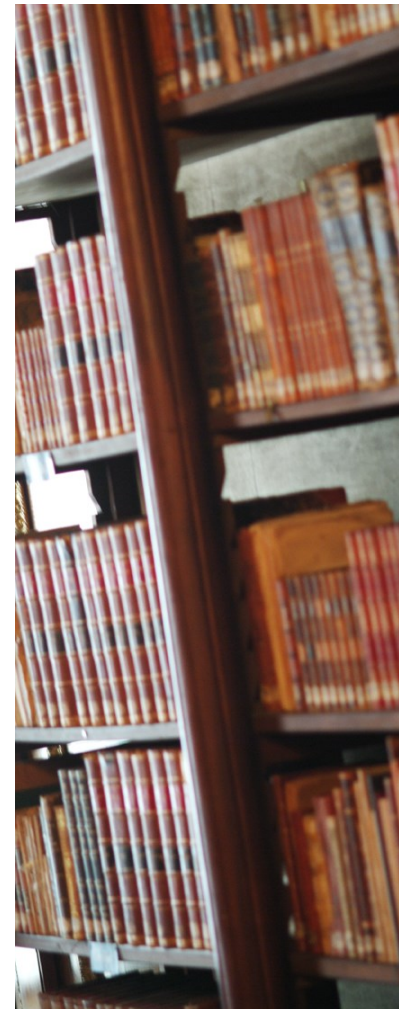
The recommended way to give is to go through your church's website. They likely have a section titled "Giving" or "Online Giving" where you can give using the Tithe.ly platform. If they do not have that, you can use one of the methods listed below.

#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://tithely.com/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://apps.apple.com) (iPhone) or [Google Play Store](https://play.google.com) (Android). Once you've downloaded the app, create an account or log in, locate your church and tap "Give Now" to complete your gift!



Church Council Minutes

The Trinity United Church of Christ, Elliston Church Council met on Monday November 11th, 2019 at 7:04 pm. Ben Sutter, President, called meeting to order and opened with prayer. Those in attendance were as follows:

President Ben Sutter, Vice President Nyla Denman, Faith Sutter, Shirley Buhro, Marty Hoeft, Ken Gahler, Brock Hansen, Eric Gahler, Curt Reiff, Church Secretary Rhonda Mahaney, and Pastor Ryan Shields. Jennifer Laughlin, Nate Diekman, and Jayson Hayes were absent.

Reports:

Recording Secretary: Meeting minutes from the October council meeting were read prior to the meeting by members. Motion to accept the minutes were made by first Nyla Denman, second by Ken Gahler. MC.

Secretary Report:

Date for annual meeting

January 26th, 2020

NWOA goal for 2020

Last year goal \$2,500

Motion for new goal \$2,700

First by Eric Gahler, and second by Marty Hoeft, MC.

Financial Report:

Average Monthly Bills \$825

Propane bills will be starting to come in

Elevator certification should be happening around \$80

Electric bills expected to increase over the winter season

Review of budget

Proposed budget to be addressed to congregation in December

Countertop bill

\$9,100

Quoted \$6,850- already approved by congregation. Will pay quoted price from Memorial Fund

Offering

Policy in the works of being created

Shirley and Rhonda working on new system

Will report to council next month on how it's working

Snow plow

Various people have been notified

If bids are received, Rhonda will notify council

Consolidate accounts

Will address in congregational meeting in December

As far as Rhonda knows all Trinity UCC money is now under our umbrella

Approval of financial report by first Ken Gahler and second by Marty Hoeft, MC.

Pastor Report:

Worship

Conducted all worship services for October themed on Context/Fear

New sermon series on Spiritual Habits started on

November 3rd

Communion served 11/3

Continued working with Jennifer Laughlin on Special Music/Live Praise Music

Baptism for Silas Martin Sutter on 10/20

Special recognition of members and loved ones who have passed for All Saints Day 11/3

Special recognition and liturgy for Veterans' Day on 11/10

Children's program will be 12/22 led by Jan Corbin

Christmas Eve will be one service on 12/24 at 7pm

Pastor Ryan off 12/29. Rev. Don Corbin to fill in.

Events/Activities

BooFest: Highly successful BooFest. Happy to work with Missions team on this project.

They do a wonderful job. Wonderful night of trunk or treat, food, games, and fellowship.

Met with Missions team on 11/5 to discuss upcoming Missions projects. Celebrated a successful BooFest, Food Pantry drive and planned upcoming Holiday Mission Activities.

Met with worship team to discuss Christmas and other Worship activities.

Attended Men's Breakfast on 11/3.

Missions Team serving at Genoa Food Pantry on 11/16.

Congregational Meeting 11/3 approved plan for 2030 Vision Team.

Trinity Members invited to participate in the Genoa Holiday Parade on December 1 at 6PM.

THRIVE youth ministry programming began on 11/3. Jan Corbin is leading a small group for our 3-6th grade students. Currently 6 students participating.

Pastoral Ministries

Trips to the Genoa Care Center regularly.

Multiple Home and Hospital Visits

Lots of phone calls/texts/emails for health concerns.

Working with Genoa Clergy Cluster

Attended various church meetings.

Check in's via Facebook, E-mail, and phone calls with members/friends of the church.

E-Mail prayer chain connecting with 39 current subscribers.

Committee Reports:

Worship

Discussed All Saints Day, Veterans Day, Christmas Program, and Christmas Eve

EFY

Janene working on church camp and Rhonda will talk to her.

Mission

Met and working on mission vs. outreach team

Boo Fest held on October 27th

Church & Ministry

Met as a group

Reviewed recommendations with the council at the conclusion of the council meeting

Pastor Ryan and Rhonda were excused after the New Business portion of the council meeting to discuss. All employee compensations and reviews were approved by council members.

Trustee Report

Boiler's Inspected and repairs are needed

Estimate from Ohler and Holzhauser was over limit

Will bring to congregational meeting December 1st

Motioned by first Marty Hoeft and second by Eric Gahler. MC.

Sound/Audio Updates

Estimate cost \$4,879 for Pastor Ryan and Marty to fix

Motion to proceed by first Faith Sutter, and second by Eric Gahler. MC.

Gym lights

Will address later

Garage updates

Will address later

Moisture, Ventilation, and Mold Issue

Quote for ventilation \$3,200

Motion to approve by first Shirley Buhro and second by Nyla Denman, however there is a concern that it will not fully remove humidity and won't solve mold problem

Suggest pricing out power vent and air conditioning combination from Ohler and Holzhauser just to compare. Shirley withdrew original motion.

Curt to contact

Nominating Committee

Discussed potential replacements for the following positions on church council

Vice President

Financial Secretary

Elder

Deacon

2 Trustees

Old Business:

Tithe.ly is fully launched

Constitution spending limits

Daily spending limits

\$500 daily for things directly related to upkeep of the church, used or consumed in the church or used in services

Increase council limits from \$1500 to \$5000

All other purchases require congregational approval

Motion to approve at congregational meeting by first Marty Hoeft and second by Ken Gahler, opposed by Nyla Denman, MC.

Cry room updated started and ongoing

2030 Vision Team approved

New Business:

Cable needs to be run by drilling holes for Spectrum cable to install

Curt Reiff will do

\$50,000, 2% 13-Month CD, No penalty

Spoke to Marty Sutter

Motion first by Marty Hoeft, and second by Curt Reiff

Fridge Money has been raised

Will present to congregation for approval on December 1st

Benevolence \$913

Give \$150 to each of the four surrounding area food pantries

Give to missionaries we support

World Vision

Ben and Mandy Wood

Philippines

Jay and Zina Herman

Slovenia

Pastor Ryan and Rhonda were excused at this time for council to discuss employee reviews

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm by Ben Sutter.

Respectfully submitted, Faith Sutter, Recording Secretary.

General Operating Fund Report (approved)

Beginning 11/1/19 \$61,199.96

Offering/Income \$14,643.33

Expenses \$57,962.87

Balance 11/30/19 \$17,880.42

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

FOOD PANTRY HELP NEEDED

We are in need of help for the Genoa Food Pantry on February 22nd. Please let the office know if you are able to help out.

COUPONS

As Always, thanks for saving the coupon pages for me! Last month we had an exciting race between Oak Harbor, Genoa, and Woodmore schools. Congratulations to Genoa for an exciting last minute victory! I'd love to help with another contest to help the food pantries. Thank you for a wonderful contest!

BOOK LENDING LIBRARY

The weather is turning cooler. We have got some wonderful books in our lending library (across from the restrooms near the Fellowship Hall). Take them home and/or read in the comfy chairs at church. Got some good books that you'd like to share? Any contributions are welcome! Enjoy!!!

~Karen

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The December Congregational Meeting at Trinity UCC was called to order by council President Ben Sutter on December 1, 2019 at 10:47 a.m. Each topic discussed was opened up for discussion and questions from the congregation. The following topics were brought up to receive approval:

Boiler's Inspected and seasonal repairs are needed

Estimate from Ohler and Holzhauser at \$2,622

Motion to accept by first Nyla Denman and second by Jennifer Laughlin.

None oppose. MC.

Approval for updated refrigerators to be purchased

Money has been raised

\$2,600-\$3,500

Motion to accept by first Darryl Opfer and second by Marty Sutter. None oppose. MC.

Sound/Audio Updates

Estimate up to \$6,000 for repairs

Motion to accept by first Mike Diekman and second by Jim Laughlin. None oppose. MC.

Daily spending limits

\$500 operating limit per day

Increase council authorization from \$1500 to \$5000

Motion to accept by first Eric Gahler and second by Brock Hansen. None oppose. MC.

Approval needed for incoming slate of officers

Vice President- Desirae McCloskey

Deacon- Troy Wittman

Elder- Ed Gahler

Financial Secretary- Bonnie Weaver

Trustee- Brad Jess

Trustee- Jim Buhro

Motion to accept by first Nate Diekman and second by Amy Sutter. None oppose. MC.

Approval for proposed budget

The proposed budget for Trinity UCC was provided for congregation members on a pamphlet to review

Motion to accept by first Marty Sutter and second by Brad Jess. None oppose. MC.

The floor was opened up for further questions or concerns. However, there were none. With that the congregational meeting was concluded by Ben Sutter at 11:05 a.m. Respectfully submitted by Faith Sutter- Recording Secretary.

MEDICAL LENDING SUPPLY CLOSET

Please remember that we have a medical supply lending closet in the basement kitchen for anyone to use as needed.

I have recently added a new walker with wheels, "skis", and a tray, and also a shower-tub transfer bench.

Ash any of us medical folks if you need help. Thanks!

~Robin

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of Trinity UCC will be on Sunday January 26th, 2020 at 10:30 am with a potluck lunch to follow.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Trinity Women's Fellowship got together for their Christmas Party on Thurs. Dec 12, 2019 for luncheon at noon at Granny's Restaurant in Woodville.

Norma began the day with prayer and the table blessing. After lunch we were so pleasantly surprised with a card from Ina David and she treated us with pie. We hank her so much.

We decided not to meet in January and February. In March we will meet on Thurs. Mar. 12, 2020 at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Program—Norma R, Host Eva H.

Prayer partners were revealed and new names drawn.

Then Sunshine report was given by Eloise H. and she will be chairman again this month.

The Christmas program was "Spreading Joy, Love and Hope" with Norma in charge. She also had several readings during the day.

We then had our gift exchange.

Submitted by Suzanne B.

Balance on Hand as of Nov. 1	\$1,514.21
Total Income & Balance	\$1,514.21
Total Expenses	\$200.00
Salvation Army	50
Cherry St. Mission	50
Grace Community Center	50
Ottawa Co. Holiday Bureau	50
Balance on Hand Nov. 30	\$1,314.21

Rada Knife Sale—The Women's Fellowship has an ongoing Rada Knife sale. If you are interested, contact them or the office.

THANK YOU

"We are very grateful for your donation towards our ministry here in Slovenjia! We are very glad to serve among students and high school students! Thank you very much! Praying for your ministries and leaders and that God will use you in a great way in your neighborhood, city and in all the ways you are praying."

~Jay & Zina Herman

"My dear Trinity Family, I wish to thank all of you who provided the pure joy of your presence and music. There is no greater happiness than the love you showered on me. Jesus' love is most evident! Thank you!"

~Fay Bolander

"Thank you so much for your recent contribution to the Genoa Food Pantry. It is always appreciated! Take care and God Bless Everyone! Merry Christmas and a Very Happy Healthy New Year!"

~ Genoa Area Community Food Pantry

"Thank you for your donation to the Elmore Food Pantry. The generosity of people like you is what feeds our hungry neighbors.

Your donation is appreciated by all of us who volunteer at the pantry, and by those whom we serve. May you be blessed in your giving."

"We want to say a special thank you for the many joyous carolers brining us the Christmas spirit. We truly enjoyed everyone. The plate of cookies was a treat. Many thanks."

~ Melvin & Norma

"Thank you to the carolers for stopping by. It was a delight to see them sing so happily. I enjoyed their music and singing and the cookies they brought."

~Suzanne B.

TABLE & CHAIR SIGN-OUT

Just a reminder with holidays and family gathering season upon us, the sign out sheet for the tables and chairs is located in the closet across from the office.

Please contact the office to make sure you are on the list for the date you would like the tables and chairs.

The ONLY tables that are to leave the building are the older wooden style tables. The ONLY chairs that are to leave the building are the wooden chairs. The tables and chairs that can be taken out, are all located in the shed.

JANUARY MISSION SPOTLIGHT

SCRIP FUNDRAISER

Thank you to all that participated in our Scrip order! We were able to raise over \$250 for our church.

OFFICE CLOSED

Pastor Ryan and Office Administrator Rhonda are on vacation from 12/25—1/3. If you have any church business for the end of the year, please contact them in advance.

Our Mission Spotlight for the month of January will be our new Compassion Fund. The Compassion Fund will be a new holding fund under the Missions team umbrella that can be made available for individuals or families in emergency situations. Do you know a family who has struggled to pay a utility bill? Has a family recently had a financial set back due to flood or fire? These are the kind of giving projects that the church will give out from the Compassion Fund. This also allows us to keep some cash on hand to deliver an extra blessing in times of great need. Please consider giving to establish this Compassion Fund ministry.

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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