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News From Pastor Ryan:

Hello Friends,

If you know me, you know that the first weekend in February is an exciting one for me! Being a big football fan means the celebration of the unofficial holiday Super Bowl Sunday is one of my favorite days of the year! It's been made all the more special this year as it just so happens my favorite team, the San Francisco 49ers, will be playing. It's the BIG game!

One of the best parts of the Super Bowl is the stories told about each team. On the surface, the game is simple, two teams compete for points until a winner is declared. But an avid fan knows how much more goes into getting there. This year has several stories. One team has a coach who has had a Hall of Fame career but has come up short in the big game and can secure his legacy with a Super Bowl ring. The other coach is seeking redemption after his team blew a big lead in the Super Bowl a few years ago. There's a defensive player who had a devastating injury but fought back to top performance. We have two young quarterbacks trying to establish themselves as elite players. You have grizzled veteran's and fresh-faced rookies. All of them looking for their shot at football glory.

Did you know the Bible used several sports metaphors to talk about our faith? Paul specifically talks about how athletes are battling for temporary prizes, but Christians are fighting for an eternal prize.

"24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. 27 No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize." -1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Paul gives us a reminder here that these big moments of sports glory, they will eventually be forgotten. Can you name all 53 Super Bowl MVPs? But the reward we receive in Christ, that lasts forever! So, if an athlete training for a temporary prize can be "all in" in their commitment, shouldn't we be MORE committed to our eternal prize? Shouldn't we dedicate our whole lives to the challenge that God has laid before us? We don't run aimlessly; God has given us a purpose. Love God, Love others.

When we see world class athletes, they are dedicating their entire lives to victory. They wake up early thinking about their goals. What they eat and drink furthers their cause. How they sleep is designed to enhance performance. Everything they do is in pursuit of the prize. Shouldn't we be the same? Shouldn't our faith be our focus from the time we wake up until the time we go to sleep? Paul says he makes his body a slave to the Gospel message. Just as an athlete's body is a finely tuned winning machine, we as Christians offer ourselves to God's calling completely! If we can be so dedicated to earthly prizes, let us be even more focused on eternal prizes!

Run your race! Love God and love others. Remember that the greatest prize is not a trophy or a medal, but the gift of eternal salvation in Jesus Christ.

(Go Niners!)

Pastor Ryan Shields



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- ◆ February 2nd - Men's Breakfast
- ◆ February 2nd—THRIVE
- ◆ February 10th—Church Council
- ◆ February 16th—THRIVE
- ◆ February 17th—Office Closed
- ◆ February 26—Ash Wednesday
- ◆ March 10-11—Directory Photos

WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION

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

Feb. 9th—Family Matters: Children” - Crossroads

Feb. 16th—Family Matters: Marriage

Feb. 23rd—Family Matters: Adoption

March 1st— I AM: The Bread of Life

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

February 2nd
Suzanne Buhro & Ken Gahler

February 9th
Mike & Ann Diekman

February 16th
Ed & Jane Gahler

February 23rd
Dan & Connie Gahler



CALLING ALL GREETERS

Greeter and Welcome Teams.

We know many people have volunteered to be greeters at various times, but we are looking to reorganize and have a better calendar going forward. If you are interested in being a greeter, even if you have signed up before, please sign the clipboard and look out for more information in coming weeks.

OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

Would you like to be a part of a fun team that invites people to learn about and visit our church? For 2020 to help achieve our vision, we are looking for outgoing personalities to serve on this new team. This team will throw fun food and fellowship events and much more. If you are interested, please contact the office



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.

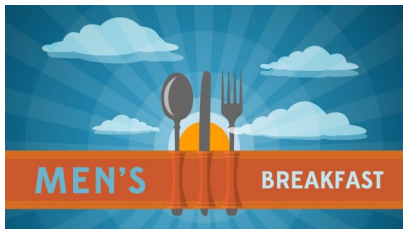


Join us on February 2nd and February 16th

BRANCHING OUT NEWS TEACHERS

Date	2-3 Nursery	PreK Teacher	K-2 Teacher
February 2	Church Camp	Church Camp	Church Camp
February 9th	Kelsey G.	Ashley G.	Kylene L.
Feb. 16th	Jen L.	Ashley Z.	Brittany W.
Feb. 23rd		Janene L.	Mathews
March 1.	Lou Ann D.	Desirae M.	Rebecca R.

Christian Education News!!!!

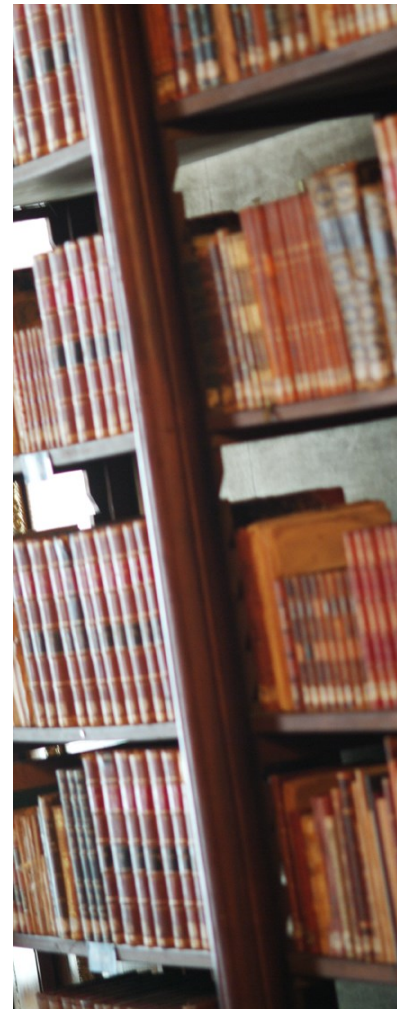


Men are invited to join us on Sunday, February 2nd at 7:30am for the first breakfast of the season. If you are interested in serving a meal, or would like more information, please contact Ed G.

VBS

Vacation Bible School: The next planning team meeting will be on February 9th after church.

Our challenge to raise \$1000 is still going on. Let's see how fast we can raise the money to invest in putting on a VBS this summer.



Church Council Minutes

The Trinity United Church of Christ, Elliston Church Council met on Monday December 9th, 2019 at 7:00 pm. Ben Sutter, President, called meeting to order, and Pastor Ryan Shields opened with prayer. Those in attendance were as follows:

President Ben Sutter, Vice President Nyla Denman, Faith Sutter, Shirley Buhro, Marty Hoef, Ken Gahler, Jennifer Laughlin, Eric Gahler, Curt Reiff, Jayson Hayes, Nate Diekman, Pastor Ryan Shields, Church Secretary Rhonda Mahaney were present. Brock Hansen was absent. We also had incoming council members for 2020 in attendance: Desirae McCloskey, Ed Gahler, Bonnie Weaver, Brad Jess, and Jim Buhro.

Reports:

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

Secretary Report:

Updated request for days off
December 16-18, & 23

Office Closed

December 27 thru January 2
Phones to be checked
Reverend Corbin to fill in

Frontier

Not out of contract until August 2020
Plan to switch to Spectrum and keep our current phone number
Will file complaint with Public Utility Commission of Ohio (PUCO)
Per President Ben Sutter

Refrigerators

First Energy to recycle oldest fridges and they will come to pick up
Motion by first Nate Diekman and second by Shirley Buhro, MC.

Financial Report:

Review of budget
Approval of financial report by first Marty Hoef, and second by Jennifer Laughlin, MC.

Pastor Report:

Worship

Conducted all worship services for November themed on Spiritual Habits
Advent began on 12/1 with messages of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy
Communion served 12/1
Continued working with Jennifer Laughlin on Special Music/Live Praise Music
Baptism for Skylie Jade Shields performed by Pastor Dawn Balduf on 12/8

Children's Program will be 12/22 led by Jan Corbin
Christmas Eve will be one service on 12/24 at 7pm. Special music will begin at 6:30pm
Pastor Ryan off 12/29. Rev. Don Corbin to fill in.
Provided Memorial Services for Jennifer Mosely (Tienarend) 11/16

Events/Activities

Genoa Festival of Lights: Small group from Trinity marched in Genoa Festival of lights parade. Trinity was front and center of the Genoa Cluster banner. Seeking more opportunities to connect in the villages.

Missions team served at the Genoa Food Pantry on 11/16 from 9am- 1 pm. We were well represented and those who participate report a positive and powerful experience.

Attended Men's Breakfast on 12/1

Congregational Meeting was held on 12/1 easily passing the agenda.

THRIVE youth ministry program meets on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month. Jan Corbin has done a wonderful job reaching out to connected families.

Congregational Vision Meetings held. Great information and discussion.

Pastoral Ministries

Trips to the Genoa Care Center regularly.
Lots of hospital visits this month. At least 7 different hospital stays this month.
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 42 current subscribers

Committee Reports:

Worship

Upcoming Christmas Program and Christmas Eve Service

Need Speakers

Eric Gahler and Faith Sutter volunteer

EFY

Branching out meeting Wednesday of this week

Jan Corbin in charge of THRIVE

Janene working on church camp

Mission

Food pantry and baby drive

Benevolence account

Funds to World Vision and Lighthouse Sober Living

Church & Ministry

Employee reviews complete

Trustee Report

Snow Removal will be done by Matt Perry

Nominating Committee

Replacements found

Pastoral Relations

Nothing at this time

Old Business:

Constitution spending limits

Approved at congregational meeting

Ben to put together amendment for council to sign

Policy Book in the works for the church

2030 Vision Team approved by church

5-10 members

Official team chose by council

Pastor Ryan has input

Council to think of people

Will discuss in January

New Business:

Work on receiving quote for boilers/air conditioning

Warner Mechanical

Ask for Trent or Lucas

Sound system updates in process

Utility Pole keeps getting struck

Not our pole

Will call Frontier to see what we can do

Will add Pastoral Relations committee tab to Committee Reports (see above)

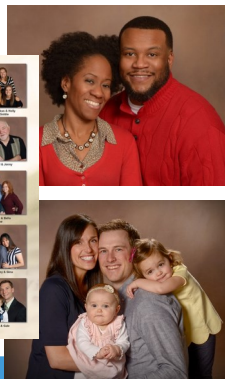
Next year women's ecumenical Christmas service

Will need to find women from the church to do

Pastor Ryan and Rhonda will track down book to see which church has it

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm by Ben Sutter.

Respectfully submitted, Faith Sutter, Recording Secretary.



Each participating family receives a

Free directory & complimentary 8x10 photograph

Lifetouch

General Operating Fund Report (approved)

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

Beginning 12/1/19	\$17,880.42
Offering/Income	\$15,164.95
Transfers	(\$4,800.00)
Expenses	\$13,435.40
Balance 12/31/19	\$14,809.97



Help us strengthen our community!

Be a part of the new Trinity United Church of Christ directory so everyone will know your name.

Photography dates
March 10 - March 11

Reserve your photography session today!

Lifetouch

FOOD PANTRY HELP NEEDED

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

COUPONS

Grace Lutheran church in Elmore was thrilled to receive this month's food pantry items. As always thanks for the coupon inserts! I've also put a box of baby coupons in the cry room.

Thank you so much for helping me with this project!!

~Karen L.

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



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.

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

We need you to
make our new
directory complete!

Lifetouch

TITHE.LY

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



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.

WF Treasurer's Report	
Balance on Hand as of Dec 1	\$1,314.21
Total Income & Balance	\$1,314.21
Total Expenses	\$0.00
Balance on Hand Dec. 31st	\$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

"Thank you to everyone that had anything to do with my Christmas Gift, I really appreciate it"

~Love, Amy Mathews

"Thank you for your generous donation to The Family House. It is unique by keeping the family together as one supported unit. Your contribution will help house, feed and support the homeless families in Toledo."

~Deshanna Alexander

"A huge thank you to everyone for the wonderful Christmas gift and many notes during the holiday. I appreciate them all greatly!"

~Rhonda Mahaney

"The B-C-S Food Pantry wishes to Thank you for your very generous donation of \$100.00. Thank you."

~B.C.S. Volunteers

"Thank you for your financial contribution to Light House Sober Living. We are grateful for your support! The money donated will be used to help provide recovery housing for men and women of our communities."

~Kenn Bower, Ex. Director

"Thank you for being an active member of The Daughter Project Family. Your prayers and donations have been an immeasurable blessing to the women and children who come to us for help."

~Jeff Wilbarger, Director

"Thank you for your donation for the Light House Sober Living Fund of the Ottawa County Community Foundation. Your gift is most appreciated"

~Keith Burwell, President Greater Toledo Community Foundation

"Just a quick note to say thank you for your support this past year. Because you have chosen to love our neighborhood children, students, and adults have experienced God's love in many ways. The youth development center is open and serving our students every week. The Plank Factory will be opening very soon.

God has exciting plans for TNC this coming year! Your faithful support is allowing us to create environments that connect our neighbors with their Creator!"

You are our Heros!"

~Pastor Pat

FEBRUARY MISSION SPOTLIGHT

Our Mission Spotlight for the month of February is Crossroads Child and Family Services

Crossroad is a not-for-profit treatment provider for emotionally troubled children and their families. Behind that simple description is a long list of therapy, education, and family support services provided both to children who live on our campus and to those we work with in the community. Crossroad was founded by the German Reformed Church in the United States, a predecessor of today's United Church of Christ, in 1883 as "The Reformed Orphan's Home of Fort Wayne, Indiana." Crossroad maintains a care team featuring a chaplain, case managers, teachers, therapists, housekeepers, cooks, nurses, and others – working together to build Promising Futures for children. Children come to Crossroad through a variety of avenues. Judges, mental health professionals, public service agencies, counselors, and educators may refer children to Crossroad to receive services. Some youth come to us through and with their families. Crossroad provides many services to help meet the needs of these children and families, including: out-patient counseling services, community children's mental health programs, emergency mental health facilities, an alternative education academy, residential treatment, spiritual development, special education and recreation.

OFFICE CLOSED

**We will be closed Monday,
February 17th due to
President's Day**

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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