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News From Pastor Ryan:

Hello Church,

With all of the current precautions in place for COVID-19, in a matter of weeks we have seen our way of life change dramatically. Each day the news changes and we rapidly try to adapt to the new paradigm in front of us. Many of you know I pride myself on having a vision for the future. Rhonda and I often share a laugh when she sees my white board scrawled with sermon ideas 3-6 months out. I always want to know what's going to happen next. In this situation, we can't know. I'm writing you this letter a few hours after Gov. DeWine has issued the stay-at-home order for Ohio. By the time you receive it, who knows what new information will have come to light.

It's difficult when God takes us places where we don't know what's coming. There's a fear that comes over us as we look into the future. During this pandemic, many movie companies have been quick releasing new movies for people to catch up on. That includes Disney's Frozen 2 which features the song "Into the Unknown". At the end of the song, Elsa sings this;

"Where are you going? Don't leave me alone. How do I follow you? Into the unknown?"

I think we often would ask God similar questions. When we go through struggles and darkness in our lives, we ask God if we've been left alone and struggle with how we can follow God into the uncertain future. Joshua experienced this when he was asked to take up the role of leader of the Israelites after Moses died. Joshua was going to be the one to lead the Israelites to the Promised Land, where they would encounter other people and armies as they received the land God gave them. They were entering the unknown, but it was a place where God would be with them. God tells them this:

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." -Joshua 1:9

We are in the unknown, but we must remember that God is with us wherever we go! While we are presented with new parameters for how we live our lives currently, we know that God is in control. God will carry us, even into the unknown. What should we do? Be strong and courageous. Remain steadfast in our belief that God, who has carried us through hard days before, is faithful and true and will carry us through. We're preparing for Easter. And even if we don't celebrate Easter in the same way this year (or celebrate it later!) our hearts are prepared to leave the dark tomb of death and despair and enter into the light of God's new day!

This edition of the tidings is full of question marks and plan that we aren't sure will unfold the way we think. And that's okay. God is the God of all our days. More powerful than our fear. Unshakable. If we trust in Him, we will find our secure and our future, in this world or the next.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and I can't wait to worship with you all again.

-Pastor Ryan



PLEASE NOTE

Due to the uncertainty of everything around us, this version of the Trinity Tidings will contain bare bones.

We will issue another updated version as soon as we know more.

No calendar will be sent, as we just don't know as of right now when we can continue with our planned events.

Please contact the office via phone, email or by texting either Rhonda or Ryan with any questions you may have during these uncertain times.

Thanks for everything.
~ Rhonda

COUPONS

This months food pantry items were donated to Zion Church across the road. Thank you so much for the coupon pages and/or monetary contributions. There are diaper/ baby coupons in a basket in the cry room.

~Karen L.

BOOK LENDING LIBRARY

There are some interesting books in the book shelves across from the restrooms in the fellowship hall. Check out the top as those are new books that have been donated. Thank you to whomever donated the Silver Linings books—it was excellent.

~Karen

Due to the uncertainty of the world right now, we have decided to not order Easter Flowers. We wanted to thank all that had already submitted an order for their understanding and patience with us. We wanted to give them recognition for their submissions, so please see below the acknowledgment for those that turned in their paid forms.

Easter Flowers

In Memory Of...

James, Carolyn & Jim Wetzel given by Nyla Denman
Russ, Marilyn, & Cindy Denman given by Nyla Denman
Hope Bowman given by Fay Bolander
Henry Bolander given by Fay Bolander
Andy Culver given by Dorothy Clarke
All those departed given by Jackie Pelton
Loved Ones given by Eloise Hellwig
Breann Kay DeRan given by LouAnn DeRan
David & Twila Zimmerman given by LouAnn DeRan
Duane & Delores Jess given by LouAnn DeRan

In Honor Of...

Loved Ones given by Nyla Denman
Jamie Arthur US Army currently in Afghanistan given by LouAnn DeRan

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

SPRING CLEANING & RUMMAGE SALE

Spring is around the corner—good time to “clean House”

We are working on a date with Zion Elliston and St. Marks in Graytown as we were so successful combining our sales on the same day last year. We will be announcing a date hopefully in next month’s Tidings. Just wanted to give you a “heads up” so you can start gathering items that you’d like to donate. Any questions—See Karen Lick.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Trinity Women's Fellowship got together on Thursday March 12th for their meeting. Minutes will be in the next Tidings.

| WF Treasurer's Report | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Balance on Hand as of Feb 1 | \$1,314.21 |
| Offering | 38.25 |
| Total Income & Balance | \$1,352.46 |
| Memorial | \$10.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$10.00 |
| Balance on Hand Feb. 29 | \$1,342.46 |

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

THANK YOU

"A belated thank you everyone who sent cards, made visits and said prayers while I was at Genoa Care Center and since I returned home. A special thank you to Pastor Ryan for his visits and prayers. A little late but thank you to the carolers who came to the home and the plate of cookies. How blessed we are to have a loving and caring church family. God bless you all."
~Evelyn Schimming

"The important ongoing support of donors makes an important difference for the children and families we serve. As a donor you are a vital part of our mission, helping to give hope, and healing to many young people we serve each year.
With this gift you show how much you care about the youth and their needs. Your support is very much appreciated.
Crossroads has a legacy of being a haven of love, understanding, and hope. You have a special place in ensuring this continues.
Thank you for your continued support of our children, Trinity UCC Family! I enjoyed my visit and look forward to seeing you again soon. Thank you for welcoming me so generously."
~Liz Bergren, Crossroads

GIVINGS

We understand the financial strain that each and everyone of you are going thru during these uncertain times.
We just wanted to remind you that if you are able, you can still send your offerings into the church via the postal mail, online giving's thru your bank, or thru the tithe.ly app (there is a link to that app on our website's home page).

VBS

Vacation Bible School
June 14-18 6-8:30 pm
We have met our goal!!! Thank you to all that have supported our VBS efforts this year so far.
We are seeking volunteers to be Crew Leaders, a Game Station Leader, and to lead our Pre-School Room.



Church Council Minutes

The Trinity United Church of Christ, Elliston Church Council met on Monday, February 10, 2020. At 7:05 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, Ed Gahler, Jim Buhro, Marty Hoefl, Brad Jess, Jayson Hayes, Pastor Ryan Shields, and Church Secretary Rhonda Mahaney were present. Eric Gahler, Desirae McCloskey, Faith Sutter were absent.

Reports:

Guest Speaker: Jordan Moore came to visit and present how the portfolio did during 2019. We had an increase in our funds and we decided to keep the funds as they are.

Recording Secretary: Meeting minutes from the January council meeting were read prior to the meeting by members. Motion to accept the minutes were made by first Nate Diekman, second by Brad Jess MC.

Secretary Report:

Update on the Property Tax Exemption was given. We are still waiting to hear back from the state as it is going thru the approval chain on the state level. A brief discussion was had in regards to the December versus the January meeting we hold. We will discuss those more when we review the constitution. Men's Banquet -information will be going out this week. Same menu as before. Guest will be an officer and his dog. Tickets are \$10 for an adults, contact the office to purchase and pay in advance. It is our turn to host Easter Breakfast. Nate, Ed, Brad, and Nyla will work together as a team to arrange food for that morning.

Financial Report:

Review of information presented. Approval of financial report by first Nate Diekman, and second by Bonnie Weaver, MC.

Pastor's Report:

Worship

Conducted all worship services for January themed on the Book of James
Provided Funeral Services for Ina David on 2/4/2020

- Communion served 2/9
- Guest Speaker from Crossroad Child and Family Services on 2/9
- Continued working with Jennifer Laughlin on Special Music/Live Praise Music
- Led worship service at Church Camp for 32 adults/

children

- Planning Lenten services with Zion Elliston
- Ash Wednesday February 26th at 7 PM at Trinity begins Lent.

Events/Activities

Congregational Meeting for reports held on 1/26. No new business. People seemed to enjoy the fellowship hour.

Attended Missions Team Meeting. Missions served at the Genoa Food Pantry on 12/21 and will again on 2/15. Missions team discussed Mission Spotlights, Compassion Fund, and started planning for Spring and Summer projects including a "lend a hand" service day and working with Nyla's Oak Harbor student food program.

VBS Planning Team met and selected June 14th-18th from 6:00 – 8:30 PM for VBS. A good groundwork of volunteers is already in place and we will be recruiting others.

Attended church camp on Friday/Saturday. Great time and conversation with people. Janene provided excellent activities for children and a women's small group. I led a Men's discussion and a worship time Saturday night.

- Attended Men's Breakfast on 2/2
- Nancy and Steve Turnow led a Bible Study called Anxious for Nothing that was well received. Nancy expressed interest in continuing to meet with adults after church if we could get a rotation of 3-4 leaders.
- THRIVE youth ministry program meets on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of Every Month.

Pastoral Ministries

Was able to give Ina David communion before she passed. Worked with family to coordinate all memorial services for Ina.

Many illnesses going around slowed some visitations. Made a trip to the care center and touched base with others via phone calls to avoid spreading more illness.

At least 5 people interested in new membership class. Phone calls/texts/emails for health concerns.

Met with Oak Harbor Clergy group, discussed Food Pantry and Ecumenical ideas.

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 43 current subscribers.

Enjoyed vacation days! Thank you!

New/Old Business:

- 2030 Team. Loose 3 selected, will continue.

Committee Reports:

Worship

New Chairmen will be Jen Laughlin
They talked about the new greeter teams, Lent & Easter Services, and choosing music for the services.
We will be hosting Lent on Ash Wednesday, 3/11 & 3/25. Will need meals on 3/11 & 3/25. Service will start at 6pm and meals at 6:30pm

EFY

VBS Planning is underway! It will be June 14-18 from 6 -8:30 pm. More details to come soon.

Mission

Serving at the Genoa Food Pantry on 2/15

Trustee Report

Snow Plowing seems to be going good.
Estimate for blown insulation for under the flat roof was received. Looking to find at least 2 more estimates. Will gather information and submit it to the 2030 team once that gets moving.
Question was asked about the windows leaking and causing the wall to chip off in the north windows in the basement.

Old Business:

Phone and internet has now completely switched to Spectrum
2030 Vision Team is in the process of having members selected
Chair Rack – not sure if they like it, seems not too sturdy. Might return the 2nd one that was purchased. Looking to see if we can have a stronger one made for us.
Kitchen Phase 2:
Lights? Grid? Hood? Do we want/need it?

Maybe defer it to the 2030 team and have them make add it to one larger church improvement project that includes several projects at once.

Constitution

We are looking to break it up into smaller chunks to have a group of people review it, submit to council and then take to the congregation.

HOMEWORK= what makes a member? How do you maintain membership? What makes them inactive? How do you get off the inactive list? What does it take to become a member?

New Business:

Social Groups fund balance. We will be talking to those groups and letting them know that they need to start holding meetings and discuss what their purpose of their funds are for.

Rev. Don Corbin will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of his ordination on February 15th. We will hold a ceremony for him on March 29th with a representative from the Association.

Hospitality Team – Nyla will look for someone to be this team so that we can have a contact person when we are in need of say cookies for a reception. That person would then make calls to find people to bring in cookies.

Sound Board Training - If you are interested in learning how to operate the sound board, please see Marty to set up a training.

Motion to adjourn meeting by first Jim Buhro, and second by Nate Diekman, MC.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm by Nyla Denman.

Respectfully submitted, Rhonda Mahaney,
Administrative Assistant

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

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Beginning 2/1/20 | \$13,545.14 |
| Offering/Income | \$10,706.00 |
| Transfers | (\$50.00) |
| Expenses | \$8,193.10 |
| Balance 2/29/20 | \$16,008.04 |

Men's & Women's Banquet

We would like to thank everyone for your understanding as we had to cancel/postpone the Men's banquet.

As of today, we are unsure when/if we will be able to reschedule the banquet. We will keep you posted as things unfold.

As for the Women's banquet, again, please keep in mind that we will be addressing the situation as it gets closer. We will keep you posted as to this event as well.

As a reminder, we will continue to do Facebook “services” and messages during the weeks ahead. We have had tremendous feedback to the posts we have already done and look forward to posting and interacting virtually with as many of you as we can.

If you have not already, please follow on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TUCCElliston/>

You can also find previously posted sermons on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ljZEaKqFAO>

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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