

Trinity United Church of Christ,
17955 West 3rd Street, Elliston, OH 43432
www.trinityuccelliston.org, tucc1862@gmail.com
419-862-3417

News from Pastor Kyle

After returning from Church Camp at Camp Michindoh, I have had little time to reflect and analyze the current state of Trinity UCC and I am happy to report that I personally believe that Trinity is healthy and growing.

This congregation loves God, loves each other, is fun-loving, easy-going, and knows how to work together for the Kingdom of God. This is exciting for me, as your pastor, as I believe we will see results in our individual spiritual growth, in the overall growth of the church, and in how we relate to our immediate communities and the world around us.

Over the next few weeks I have two different themes that we will be exploring.

First, on Sunday mornings we are going to be talking about love. How fitting, isn't it? With Valentine's Day coming soon (Public Service Announcement: Don't forget to get your Dinner Tickets for February 14th) we are reminded of God's love for us.

Over the next few weeks I will be leading a series on love....God's love for us, our love for God, our love for one another, and our love for ourselves. I promise you'll "love" the messages (pun intended).

Secondly, as we begin our journey into Lent on Wednesday evenings, we will be examining ridding ourselves of our past mistakes, pain, short-comings and feelings that often leave us feeling like we aren't worthy enough to do God's work. Each Wednesday will provide a glimpse into God's Word and how we can turn out past into a glorious future.

Finally, as you have noticed in the bulletins and Tidings, we have a lot of activities, events, and Christian Educational opportunities coming up. This is exciting as it will bring us more together and give us an opportunity to welcome visitors into our church building. Please be on the lookout for these visitors and give them a friendly welcome and offer to show them around.

Pastor Kyle

Re-Kindle

Beginning Wednesday, February 3rd at 6:30 pm, Having a tough week? Need to renew your spiritual strength? Join us on Wednesdays for a brief time of worship, prayer, and discussion in the sanctuary.

Mark Your Calendars!

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 are still on sale in the church office.

TOLEDO WALLEYE

OUTING (March 13th - 5:15 pm):

The Lakeshore Region of the Northwest Ohio Association of the UCC invites everyone to attend the Toledo Walleye game on Sunday, March 13th at 5:15 pm. Tickets are \$15. Please contact the church office at Trinity if you want to attend. RSVPs need to be placed no later than February 20th.



Father/Son Banquet

(March 11th): Men of the church and the community are invited to our Father/Son Banquet on Friday, March 11th. To place your reservation, please contact the church office.

Program and time will be announced soon



ANTIQUA ROADSHOW EVENT IN ELLISTON (April 9th): Didn't win the Power Ball recently? That's okay. Perhaps you have a special antique item, a coin, book, lamp, toy, or some other treasure that is worth something?

Register to have your item appraised at our Antique Roadshow at Trinity United Church of Christ in Elliston, Ohio. For \$25, you can have your item professionally appraised and learn more about its origin through a unique and entertaining program. Pre-Registrations MUST be made as slots will fill up fast.

There will be two events (3:30 to 6 pm) and (6:30 to 8:30 pm).

Visitors who do not wish to have an item appraised can attend for FREE. A Concession Stand will also be available.

To learn more about the event, and what you can/can't bring, please contact the church office for a flyer.

Wednesday Night Lenten Series (7:15 pm):

Are you dealing with hurt or pain in your life? Our Wednesday Lenten series will discuss how to purge those feelings, dampen the sting of pain from your past, and help release your heart to a joy that comes only from true forgiveness.

Come and explore what God teaches about grace and forgiveness beginning with our Ash Wednesday service (February 10th – communion and imposition of ashes) thru March 16th.

Maundy Thursday (March 24th) – 7 pm:

Please join us for a communion service of prayer and praise as we prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Easter Weekend.

Good Friday (March 25th):

Those desiring to find time to reflect on Good Friday and the final hours of Jesus' life may enter the sanctuary on Friday, March 25th from noon until 7 pm for a time of self-reflection.

A 20-minute power point loop will lead you through the Stations of the Cross, and there will

be a bulletin provided at each entrance that will provide special prayers of reflection and scriptures to read.

Easter Sunday (March 27th):

There will be two services of celebration on Easter morning.

7 am – Traditional Sunrise Service

8 am – Breakfast

9:30 am – Celebration of Easter Service (with Branching Out for children



Thank You

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

~The Timmons Family

"I want to thank the carolers and all who baked the delicious cookies they brought. It's always great to be remembered. I know they took time out of their busy schedules. It was greatly appreciated."

~Ina David

"A big Thank you to the carolers for the wonderful songs and the delicious cookies which we enjoyed very much. We wish you many blessings."

~Steve & Blanche

"Thanks everyone for the many cards and prayers for Larry Schepflin. After spending a couple weeks at Toledo Hospital he is now doing somewhat better. Send cards to 204 Norbert Drive, Fremont, OH 43420."

"I want to thank the TLC for the very nice plate of Christmas cookies and I would also like to thank the carolers for the Christmas songs they sang to me. May God bless all of you for thinking of me."

~Eveyn Schimming

Church Council Minutes

The Trinity United Church of Christ, Elliston Church Council met on December 14th, 2015 at 7:00 pm. Janene Lattimore, President called meeting to order at 7:05 pm. and Kyle Timmons opened with prayer. Those in attendance were as follows:

President – Janene Lattimore, Vice President – Amy Mathews, Recording Secretary – Desirae McCloskey, Financial Secretary, Veronica Avery, Deacons – Dwayne Hoeft, Elders - Ken Gahler and Jayson Hayes, Trustees –Ron Giesler, Dale Bodnar, Brice Gahler and Doug Avery. The following 2016 Slate Council Members were also present – Nyla Denman, Connie Gahler, Ed Gahler, Marty Hoeft. Pastor Kyle Timmons and Church secretary Rhonda Mahaney was present as well.

Reports:

Recording Secretary: Meeting minutes from the last council meeting on 11/9/2015 and the meeting minutes from the special budget approval meeting on 11/29/2015 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 Jayson Hayes. MC. Meeting minutes from the congregational meeting on 12/13/2015 were silently read during the meeting. Motion to accept the congregational meeting minutes was made by Veronica Avery, 2nd by Eric Gahler

Secretary Report: The following items were discussed:

- Caroling will be on December 20th at 4 pm. Please bring cookies for the baskets.
- Annual reports are due by the end of December.
- Rhonda presented an example of a Christmas display made of PVC pipe. The example was passed around for everyone to view.

Pastor Report: No pastor report.

Financial Report:

Financial information was reviewed. The following items were discussed:

- Amy Mathews made a motion to move the \$1876.82 from the 150th Anniversary fund to the Audio/Visual fund.
- Leftover money for Christmas dinner donation shall be placed in the Missions fund, it is currently in the Branching Out fund.

Desirae McCloskey moved to accept the financial report. Brice Gahler 2nd. MC.

Committee Reports:

Worship –

- Looking for help with the Christmas Eve service, if anyone is interested please let a member of the worship committee know.

EFY –

- Amy Mathews is stepping down as EFY chair, therefore looking for a leader for EFY for 2016.
- The committee would like to have a children's portion of the Easter service.
- Branching out is going very well, having a good attendance.
- The committee would like to get something started for the high school group.

Mission –

- Amy Mathews is stepping down as the Missions chair and Ashley Zimmerman will be the Missions chair next year.
- Christmas program was a success and had a wonderful turnout.

Church & Ministry – No update to provide. **Search Committee –**

- The committee sent two baskets to Kyle and his family. One in November (welcome basket) which was family themed and included pastoral information (review and expectations, vacation/time off policy). The second basket was given to Kyle on December 14th.

- Search Committee will meet on January 6th at 7 pm
- Search Committee will provide support to Kyle for the first year of his employment.

Estate Committee – Have met a couple of times to discuss different options, looking for two more individuals to join the committee in order to proceed with any further action.

Joint Committee – Met with Zion, they will be partnering with the Methodist church for this Lenton season. Partnership, if any, for Good Friday and Easter Sunday is unknown at this point. Therefore, Church and Ministry will need to work on getting something planned.

Trustee Report – Sound system movement has been making progress; a lot of time has been spent by Marty Hoeft, Ed Gahler and Doyle Sommer in moving the sound board. A big thank you needs to be given to these three individuals.

Thermostats have been updated throughout the church.

Parsonage Committee: Current members are Doug Avery, Ron Giesler, and Jayson Hayes. Still looking for more members of the committee to start working on the potential proposal for selling.

Old Business:

Movement of Sound Board – Movement of sound board is still in progress. Potential for installing acoustical panels to help with the quality of the sound, to be placed around the sanctuary on the hard sections of the wall. It was noted during the meeting that the cost of the acoustical panels to be made by the church members had been approved by council in a previous year under Steve.

Therefore, the cost of the supplies will be taken from the Audio/Visual fund.

New Business:

Review of Committee Listing – Rhonda passed around the committee listing for council members to update their information. Additionally, the committee listing will need to be reviewed for open positions. Annual Meeting and the Installation of the New Council Members will be on January 10th, with a potluck to follow.

\$5 offering – Counters need to know what to do with the \$5 offering, whether it is to be provided via cash or check issued. Discussion was held relative to the future state of \$5, as well as the process going forward.

Amy Mathews made a motion that the \$5 offering process will stay the same, but will be announced in the tidings a month in advance for what the money is going for, unless it is decided it needs to go due to an emergency within the community. A separate container will be used to remove confusion of money given for offering versus \$5 offering. All money will go thru the church books and a check will be issued. This money donated as part of \$5 offering is a free will offering. Brice Gahler 2nd.

Church Camp – Final numbers are needed for church camp by December 20th. Cost is \$131 for adults and \$65.50 for children 3-12.

Brice Gahler moved and Eric Gahler 2nd to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm by Janene Lattimore.

Respectfully submitted, Desirae McCloskey,
Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report (approved)

General Operating Fun

Balance as of 12/1/15	\$13,922.52
Offerings/Income	\$8,172.57
Expenses	\$4,282.31
Balance as of 11/30/15	\$17,812.78

Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting was held on January 10th following the church service. Amy Mathews, Church President called the meeting to order. A folder of information was passed out to each family and/or individual with important church information. The following information was included and/or discussed:

- Member information was included for review for each individual within your family. Amy asked for everyone to review the information and let Rhonda know if any information needs updated or is missing.
- The church constitution was included within the folder for all individuals to review, if interested.
- The most recent member directory was passed out for all individuals to review. Amy asked all individuals to review the member directory for those that are inactive or have not come to church recently. Any information the church members can provide is helpful as Pastor Kyle will then be reaching out to those members that are currently inactive to invite them back to church.
- The annual report for all of the committees were included within the folder, as well as all of the committees and current committee members. There are currently open positions for several committees, in which Amy asked all members to consider volunteering to be on a committee. Additionally, if there is a committee that you are interested in being on (even if there does not appear to be open positions), please volunteer as we welcome all members to participate in any committees they would like to.
 - Committees of concern currently are EFY and Branching out.
- Specifically as it relates to branching out, we currently are in need of at least 1 teacher (with a commitment of 1 Sunday a month). Additionally, we are experiencing a wonderful spike in the number of children that are attending branching out, therefore, the church needs to consider if we have enough support to have members volunteer to teach so we can split the class into 2 classrooms, as we currently are reaching children from the age of 2-12 in one class.
 - Daryl Opfer commented that the members of the older generation

have been meeting after church for Sunday school. Therefore, if anyone is interested, you are welcome to join.

Nancy Turnow ended the Annual meeting with a prayer.

\$5 offerings

During the month of February, we will be partnering with Family Resource Center of Northwest Ohio.

The mission of Family Resource Center is to provide specialized behavioral health services to individuals, children and families in our multi-cultural communities in order to strengthen family life and promote personal growth.

Family Resource Center of Northwest Ohio is licensed by the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH), the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS), the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) and has received national accreditation by the Council on Accreditation (COA).

Trinity's \$5 offerings have blessed many lives and missions' projects over the years. Let us continue to be generous in our support.

In January, the \$5 offerings totaled \$623.00 with \$363.00 going towards Church Camp and \$260.00 going towards Hannah's Socks.

Branching Out

We are still in need of teachers (Men can teach also!). There is a signup 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.

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.
7. What I love most about my church is that it's a place where we feel free to "think out loud together".

(This series will continue in each Tidings)

Greeters

<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
<u>April</u>		
3 rd	North	Brice & Amber Gahler
	South	Don & Connie Gahler
10 th	North	Ed & Jane Gahler
	South	Eric & Ashley Gahler
17 th	North	Kelsey Gahler
	South	Ken Gahler
24 th	North	Kendra Gahler
	South	Vi Gahler

Prayer Concerns

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; 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 fruits!



Women's Fellowship

Trinity Women's Fellowship did not meet in January due to weather. The next meeting will be on February 11th at 1:00 pm.

Message from the Office

By Rhonda
Mahaney

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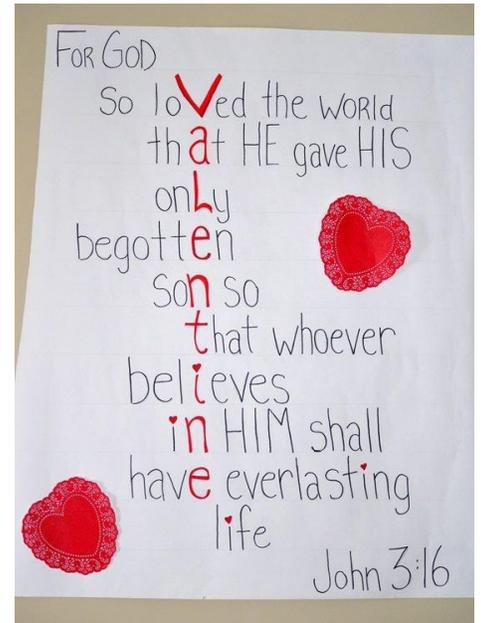
Mission

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

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

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