

Sunday Worship @ 10:00 am each week

Sunday School & Branching OutSunday School for all ages @ 9:00 am &
Branching Out Kids
Church during Worship

NOTE: Sunday School and Branching Out Kids Church will not meet December 24th or December 31st.

Christmas Eve Service:

6:30 pm Music begins 7:00 pm Service begins

Sermon Series: 10:00 am Worship



December 3:
Hope in the Wilderness
December 10:
Peace in the Valley
December 17:
Christmas Children's
Program (Cookies in the
Hall afterward)

December 24:
Joy in the Storm (10:00)
Love Always (7:00)

Tidings

VOLUME 97, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2023

God With Us

Dear Trinity Family,

Christmas is coming soon! As we enter Advent season, we remember that this is a time of reflection, anticipation, and celebration. Advent is a season of great expectation, marking the beginning of the liturgical year and symbolizing the hope and anticipation of Christ's coming.

Traditionally, we mark the Advent season by lighting a new candle each week as the anticipation grows and grows waiting for the appearance of Christ! Each year as we light the first candle on the Advent wreath we are reminded of the hope that Christ brings into our lives. In a world often filled with uncertainty, Christ's hope is the anchor that steadies our souls and assures us of a brighter tomorrow. The second candle represents peace, a peace that surpasses all understanding. In a world marred by conflict and chaos, Christ's peace offers a tranquility that can only be found in Him. The rhird candle represents joy, a joy that springs from the assurance of salvation and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. This joy is not dependent on our circumstances but is rooted in the unchanging character of our God. Love is the essence of the fourth candle, symbolizing the incomprehensible love of God manifested in the

gift of His Son. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, let us reflect on the boundless love that compelled God to send His only begotten Son into the world, that we might have eternal life through Him.

As we embark on this Advent journey together, let us be intentional in our preparations. Let us carve out moments for prayer, reflection, and acts of kindness that embody the spirit of Christ. May we be vessels of hope, peace, joy, and love, sharing the good news of Christ's arrival with a world in desperate need of His light.

May this Advent season be a time of renewed faith, deepened relationships, and a heightened awareness of the promises of Christ. I look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior with you and

rejoicing in the hope, peace, love, and joy that He brings.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6



PAGE 2 / Council Minutes: October 2023



The Trinity United Church of Christ, Elliston Church Council met on Monday, October 9 at 7:07pm. Rebecca Reif, President, called the meeting to order, and Pastor Ryan Shields opened with prayer. Those in attendance were as follows: Rebecca Reif, Pastor Ryan, Secretary Mary Muntz, Brittany Wittman, Emily Burcin, Nathaniel Diekman, Brice Gahler, Marty Hoeft, Sam Sutter, Susie Shaffer

Reports

Recording Secretary:

Brice moved to approve minutes. Nate 2nd. MC.

<u> Administrative Assistant + Financial:</u>

Reports reviewed. Motion to accept reports made by first Susie, second by Brittany, MC

Pastor:

A small group at Genoa Care Center started and successful.

Youth Night on October 1 successful with 14 students.

Upcoming dates: October 21 Genoa Pantry 9am-Noon. October 29 BooFest after Church December 24 will have AM service and Evening Christmas Eve service.

Committee Reports

EFY

Link going out to sign up for Christmas Program – December 17th during service. Michindon Family Retreat scheduled for Jan 19-21, 2024.

Missions & Outreach

Considering Angel Tree ideas

2030 Team

Will meet soon.

Church + Ministry

Evaluations out to staff. Asked to be returned to committee by November 1st

Getting quotes for sanctuary wing doors

Snow Removal – getting contract written.

New windows in connecting unit scheduled for January/February

Discussed IPS PM renewal. May not renew. Talking to other companies about preventative maintenance contracts.

Steeple Work – considering renting a lift and having a member make repairs. Nate leading newly formed Landscape committee and planning to meet soon.

Old Business

Review of Council Position needs – Vice President, Financial Secretary, Elder, Deacon, 2 Trustees. Discussed including position descriptions in the newsletter.

Lancaster Sight + Sound Trip - Don & Jan Corbin and Dan & Connie Gahler had outstanding expenses. Marty motioned to reimburse a total of \$224.82 for gas + \$112.25 for turnpike tolls from Memorial funds. Susie 2nd. MC.

New Business

\$36,479,44

November 12th – OHHS Choir to perform. Decided we will be providing cookies and punch reception for after.

Discussed getting Christmas Caroling Date solidified.

Vision Kitchen – Emily discussed Adult Sunday School class preparing meals for organization. Also, discussed presenting opportunities to the church to get involved by serving and providing food (canned fruit/individual wrapped desserts). Serving will be on Friday, November 10 from 5-6:30.

General Operating Fund (Council approved 11/13/23)

Balance 07/31/2023

Beginning Balance 10/01/2023 \$32,998.06 Offering/Income \$16,792.92 **Expenses** \$12,248.15 **Transfers** (\$1,063.39)

Next meeting is November 13 at 7pm.

Motion to adjourn meeting by first Brice, second by Emily. MC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm by Rebecca.

Respectfully submitted by Brittany Wittman, Recording Secretary.





Council regularly

In Our

Prayers

and
suddenly
there was with

a multitude of
the heavenly tost
praising fod
in the highest, and on earth
peace, goodwill towards
men
Luke 2
13-14

Our sympathies are extended to the friends and family of Todd Hablitzel who passed away last week.

Congratulations to Andrew & Allyah (Haynes) Lavelle who were united in marriage November 11, 2023 with Pastor Ryan Shields officiating. Andrew is the grandson of Doyle Sommer.

Delaney Johnson recovering from knee surgery.

Nate Diekman recovering from knee surgery.

Doug Avery recovering from many injuries from his fall

Jackie Pelton recovering from an illness.

Sean Hall recovering from another brain surgery

Erica Hall recovering from a knee injury

At Genoa Retirement Village: Don Hoeft, Jackie Pelton, Norma Reif

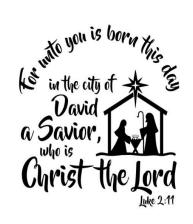
<u>Those with long-term health concerns:</u> Dawn Baker, Rev. Don Corbin, Emeli Gahler, Joel Marquart, Rayna Perry, Chuck Vizi, Deanna Vizi, Don Weaver, Steve Welling, Jamison (Jamie) Zimmerman

Those battling cancer

Sean Hall, Logan Murphy, Jackie Pelton, Dustin Schmidt





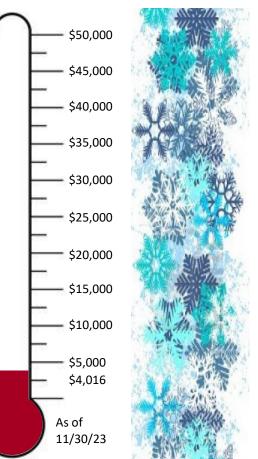






Firm Foundation Campaign Goals:

- \$50,000 starting funds for preservation and repair of Sanctuary Wing and Steeple (doors in the wings, brick work, water proofing, eavestroughs, flashing, etc)
- Cleaning, Organizing & Supplying Basement and Kitchen for ministry use
- Launching at least two smaller groups meeting monthly to improve church community and connection (one group for individuals/ couples with children, one group for individuals/couples without children). Training and equipping leaders to see these through.





December's focus will be the Angel Tree Christmas Help

To give toward the Angel Tree &

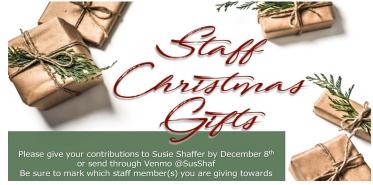
Christmas Help projects, simply write 'Mission Spotlight" on your envelope or check memo.





Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

2 Corinthians 9:15, KJV



<u>Tis the Season!</u>
If you would like to give towards Christmas gifts for our Trinity staff members, please give your contribution to Susie Shaffer on Sunday mornings at church. You may also send through Venmo @SusShaf Please make sure to mark which staff member(s) you are giving towards. Contributions for Christmas gifts are being taken until Friday, December 8th. Any questions or needing to meet outside of Sunday morning, please call or text Susie at 419-344-0673.

How Do I Give to the Church and Its Ministries

Giving to your local church using

Tithe.ly is super easy! We offer a number of different ways to give to your church, as listed below:

#1 - Give on your Church Website at www.trinityelliston.org

Click on the link provided and it will take you to our secure Tithe ly page to set up your contribution.

#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. 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 (iPhone) or Google Play Store (Android). Once you've downloaded the app, create an account or log in, locate your church and tap "Give Now" to complete your contribution!



Family Church Camp at Michindoh

January 19-21, 2024

Reserve your spot today!!



Kids 5 and under - FREE Kids Ages 6-12 - \$95.50 Adults & Kids 13+ - \$157



Reserve your spot by following the link below or by contacting Janene Lattimore

https://forms.gle/A2F8WSu2txL99YRJ8



Pickleball has come to Trinity!

Equipment and net are stored in the gym closets.

Come and play anytime the gym is free or contact Michele Avery or Nyla Denman for more information.



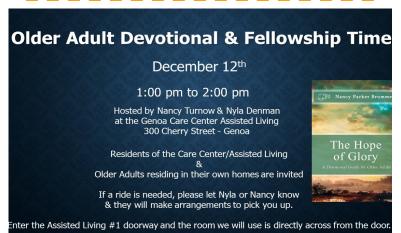
Do you feel called to visit with some of our older congregation members? Handbooks are available to help you with conversation starters as you get to know some of our older congregation members. Contact Nancy Turnow for more information.



Kid's Christmas Program



December 17 @ 10:00 am





MEN'S BREAKFAST

FOOD × FELLOWSHIP × FAITH

December 10 @ 7:30 am





WORSHIP HOSTS NEEDED

Contact the church office if you would like to serve as a worship host for one of our upcoming Sunday Services.

Duties would include keeping the service moving along by introducing our speaker while Pastor Ryan is away, calling for the offering to be collected, and saying a prayer.

Trinity Reminders and Answers to How Do I... and What's That For...Questions

Drop Box Available

Need to leave a note or drop off offering when no one is in the office? There is a locked drop box available for you to use in the connecting unit hallway next to the water fountain (outside the coat room). The box is checked at least once èach week.

Got An Item To Submit For The Next Newsletter?

Do you have good news or thank you's to share? Drop a note off or email them to the church office by the 20th of each month!

First Aid Equipment & Medical Supplies

There is first aid equipment and supplies in the basement kitchen for your use. There is also some first aid equipment in the kitchen pantry off the gym and an AED in the connecting hallway near the restrooms. We also are blessed to have many members in the health field who can assist as needed (and they've been needed!) at times.

wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, slings, bandages, ice packs, etc. that would help in a medical situation in the building or for someone in immediate need. There is no need for additional donations at this time. Let me know if we can help in

Thanks for all the support and understanding! Robin Hansen

We have been blessed with the donation of a few

Use of the Church Hall or Basement

The church calendar of events is hanging on the wall outside the main office door. You can also view scheduled events on the church website calendar (www.trinityelliston.org). If you would like to reserve the hall or basement take a form from the pouch under the calendar outside the main office, complete it and return it to the office to be scheduled. You are now required to fill out a form for any event that you would like to have in the church (including any rollover events from year to year for holiday parties). Please do not just write on the calendar - we ask you complete the form first. Once the form is reviewed we will add it to the calendar. If you have any questions, please contact Mary in the office.

Trinity Logo Wear

You can now order items directly from bit.ly/trinityunitedchurchofchrist. If the item you would like is not listed simply call R&R Identification at 419-355-8206 or visit their shop at 160 S OH 590 Fremont, OH 43420 and tell them what you would like with the Trinity Elliston logo on it and they will be happy to make it to your specifications.

Table & Chair Sign Out

Sign-out sheet for tables and chairs is located in the closet across from the main office (on the back of the door). Contact the office to make sure you are on the list for the date you would like to use the tables and chairs. The only tables that are to leave the property are the older wooden style tables. The only chairs that are to leave the property are the wooden chairs. Both tables and chairs that may be taken out are located in the shed by the kitchen entry.





Trinity UCC Elliston Council Job Descriptions

President

- ...see that all meetings of the Council are regularly called, to open and conduct such meetings, and to see to the execution of all resolutions.
- ...is empowered, with other members of the Council, to sign all contracts, loans, vouchers, and deeds in the name of the congregation. According to our Incorporation, the Council President, or his/her designate, shall be agent for the Corporation.
- ...shall be ex-officio member of all Church Committees.
- ...shall make elected officers aware of their responsibilities.

Vice President

- ...shall preside at all meetings where the President is not present and also when business pertaining to the President and his administration is before the congregation.
- ...shall be chairman of the Pulpit Search Committee and chief liaison agent between the Board of Christian Education, Family Life and Youth, and the Church Council, presenting Board recommendations for Council action.

Recording Secretary

- ...shall keep a record of all transactions at the meetings of the congregation and the Church Council, attend to all correspondence, and keep a list of all members and their addresses.
- ...shall sign all minutes of the meetings of the Council and congregation.

Financial Secretary

- ...shall be the Financial Officer of the Church.
- ...shall render a monthly report to the Council and an annual report to the Congregation based on the Treasurer's accounting.
- ...all records shall be audited bi-annually.
- ...shall bring all unpaid bills to Council for approval.
- ...shall call together the Audit Committee.
- ...shall be the Budget Coordinator for the Church.

Elders

- ...shall assist and support the Pastor in the spiritual affairs of the Church.
- ...shall be responsible for providing the elements for Holy Communion and their distribution.
- ...shall take heed in the high calling of their office, guarding faithfully all spiritual interests of the Church, visiting the sick, and ministering to the edification and comfort of all.
- ...shall endeavor to prevent strife and discord in the Church. If discord and disputes arise they shall try to adjust the difficulty in order that peace prevails.
- ...shall, as care-takers of the Church, be responsible for the visitation and counsel with members on the conditional list, trying to re-establish them as active members.

Deacons

- ...shall provide a schedule of ushers for all services, with the Senior Deacon serving as the head usher.
- ...shall be responsible for acolytes and instructing them.
- ...shall maintain order and good behavior at all services of worship of the congregation and other meetings of the Church.
- ...are responsible for affiliated services which they are to render to their Church.

Trustees

- ...shall see that all property of the congregation is adequately insured against loss or damage and shall provide for adequate liability insurance.
-shall see that the buildings are kept in good repair.
- ...shall be responsible for janitors in case of absence of regular janitors.



Christmas at Trinity

Hope in the Wilderness

December 10th Peace in the Valley

December 17th Children's Christmas Program

December 24th Joy in the Storm

Christmas Eve Love Always



Stellar Christmas Practice
We will practice every week during Branching Out and also on the following dates:

Monday, December 4th @ 6:00 pm Monday, December 11th @ 6:00 pm Saturday, December 16th @ 9:00 am

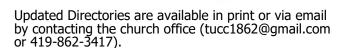
The program will be presented on Sunday, December 17th during the 10:00 am Church hour

Updated Addresses:

Jared & Janene Lattimore & Family 668 N Elliston-Trowbridge Road

Graytown, OH 43432

James & Susie Shaffer 10121 S Shannon Hills Drive Perrysburg, OH 43551





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



Praise Band Practices for December 10th Wednesday evening December 6th - 5:30pm Before service on December 10th - 8:00 am

Practices for Christmas Sundays after church every week



generous donation of the steer prep. This raffle was a huge success! We are so blessed to have so many

people on our side. We continue to ask for your prayers for our family. Your love and support means so much.

Thank you again! Steve & Leslie Welling

~Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and phone calls for Doug & I. Also thank you to Pastor Ryan for his hospital visit and calls. We are so blessed! Love,

Doug & Michele Avery

~On behalf of Grace Community Center's Board of Trustees, staff and volunteers, Thank you for your financial gift of \$600.00. We appreciate the continued support that you have given us over the years. The children that you sponsor are able to receive educational support through our After School Program. They also benefit from summer fun activities through EDU-CAMP, which combines the traditional camp activities with academic enrichment. Keep the faith and know that you indeed are making a difference in the lives of children in this community.

With much gratitude,

Elaine Page, Executive Director Grace Community Center

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Trinity UCC					DECE	DECEMBER 2023
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Keriann Sager (B)	Hall: Traver
1st Sunday of Advent	4	5	9	7	8	6
9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Classes 10:00 am Worship & Kids Church 11:00 am Praise Band Practice Greeters: Team A / Trustee: Steve Turnow	6:00 pm Stellar Christmas Program Practice Dorothy Clarke (B) Doug & Tammy Asher (A)	8:00 am Coffee Fellowship 7:00 pm Dartball at home	5:30 pm Praise Band Practice	Anna Markley (B)		
2nd Sunday of Advent 10	11	12	13	14	15	16
7:30 am Men's Breakfast 8:00 am Praise Band Practice 9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Classes 10:00 am Worship & Kids Church 11:00 am Praise Band Practice Greeters: Team B / Trustee: Marty Hoeft Hall: Wasserman 4:00 pm Christmas Caroling Claire McMonigle (B)	6:00 pm Stellar Christmas Program Practice 7:00 pm Church Council	8:00 am Coffee Fellowship 7:00 pm Dartball at home Jeffey Bast (B) Ray & Ann David (A)	Coffee Room & Kitchen: Happy Hobby Garden Club	Dale Bodnar (B)	Fay Bolander (B) Rhonda Mahaney(B) Paul & Beth Brewster (A)	9:00 am Stellar Christmas Program Practice Hall: Hoeft Lindsay Hansen-Jones (B) Rayna Perry (B) Trent & Julie Rothert (A)
3rd Sunday of Advent	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Classes 10:00 am Children's Sunday School Program w/ Cookies in the Hall afterward 11:00 am Praise Band Practice Greeters: Team C / Trustee: Brandon Kincaid Ann Schimming (B) & Gary Tabbert (B)		8:00 am Coffee Fellowship Jim Laughlin (B) Hesston Lattlimore (B)	Tidings Information Due	Carleigh Tabbert (B) Michael Tabbert (B)	Mike & Stephanie Tabbert (A)	Sara Zibbel (B)
Christmas Eve /4th Sunday of Advent 24	Christmas 25	26	77	28	29	30
No Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Classes 10:00 am Worship (No Kids Church today) Greeters: Team D / Trustee: Brice Gahler 6:30 pm Christmas Music 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	Mike Diekman (B) Ron Ayotte (B)	8:00 am Coffee Fellowship Robin Hansen (B)	Sadie Traver (B)	Kristie Gallagher (B)	Caleb Jones (B)	Hall: Clapsaddle Donald Tabbert (B)
New Year's Eve						
Hall: Opfer No Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Classes 10:00 am Worship (No Kids Church today) Greeters: Team B / Trustee: Steve Turnow						





17955 W Third St Elliston, OH 43432

Phone: 419-862-3417 Email: tucc1862@gmail.com Website: trinityelliston.org

Facebook: facebook.com/TUCCElliston

Instagram: trinityellistonucc YouTube: TrinityElliston

Livestream: trinityelliston.org/livestream

Pastor: Ryan Shields

 $Pastor's\ Email:\ ryandshields@outlook.com$

Children's Ministry Director: Janene Lattimore Janene's Email: janenelattimore11@gmail.com