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News From Pastor Ryan:

THE BIG PICTURE

Greetings Church! Welcome to 2021! It's hard to believe what a strange year 2020 turned out to be. No one could have predicted what the last twelve months would look like! This time last year I was writing to you about a 2020 Vision that would see the church through the next 10 years! In March, the Covid-19 outbreak and ensuing disruption of our lives and church services took us off that mark for a while. However, I come to you today renewed in my belief that God's mission for us is the same. We are still called to be disciples. We are still called to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. So, in this new year of 2021 I am asking all of us, together, to unite behind our common goals. Some of us will pursue the Kingdom of God from the safety of home this year. Some of us will be out on the front lines and on the forefront. Some of us will do both. Wherever you are and whatever you are doing, I ask that you would prayerfully consider your place in the church and in God's Kingdom.

We all have a role to play, no matter what skills God has gifted us with, no matter what age we are. Everyone who professes to be a follower of Christ is on the journey to continue to grow in faith and service of others. In the same way, we are also asked to help others along the same journey. Whatever 2021 is going to look like to you, know you have a place in the work God is doing at Trinity.

We often find as a people that a renewed focus on God's calling sees a period of change. As the world emerges from the mess of 2020 we will be tasked with examine every aspect of our Christian life and deciding what things are sacred and must be preserved, and what things can be set aside. You may be challenged as we grow in faith together to ask yourself "what traditions or preferences would I be willing to give up to help someone else grow closer to God." These are not always easy conversations. Yet, we know that God has called us to be Living Sacrifices, renewed each day by His Spirit.

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

-Romans 12:2

We must pray that in 2021 God will renew Trinity and in that renewal we might be transformed into the kind of church God desires us to be. We must settle for nothing less than his Holy and Perfect will. This will mean faces challenges with fresh eyes. This will mean be open to new ideas and new expressions of our faith. We will honor our past and hold sacred those who forged the path we are on. But, we must also keep our eyes on where God is calling us for the future. For Jesus said:

"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. 17 Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

-Matthew 9:16-17

Many have struggled with their purpose in 2020. Many have wondered where God is taking us. The answer is the same as yesterday, God is taking us forward. By faith, we seek to join his holy work that we might make disciples of the whole world, pursuing people in love to the ends of the Earth. Join us, brothers and sisters, and 2021 will be a much brighter year.

In the name of Jesus, greet this new year.

-Pastor Ryan



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- January 10th—following worship service will be the Annual Meeting
- January 11th at 7:00pm Church Council Meeting

PASTOR RYAN SURGERY & TIME OFF:

Pastor Ryan will be having surgery on January 7th and has been instructed by his doctors to plan for two weeks of down time in recovery. Currently, Pastor Ryan plans to be back in the office on January 21st. From January 7th-21st church coverage will be handled by Rev. Don Corbin and additional Pastoral Care needs can be directed to the church office where other area Pastors will be available.

We have created a direct link on our website for our weekly services!

If Facebook would happen to have any issues, please use the link below to find the service.

[http://
www.trinityelliston.org/
livestream.html](http://www.trinityelliston.org/livestream.html)

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.

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.

MEMORIAL THANK YOU

Memorial Thank You

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families of Evelyn Schimming, Glenn Sager, & Lavonna Bittner. We would like to thank the following for their memorials given in her name.

John & Jackie Bast



MEDICAL LENDING SUPPLIES

It has been wonderful to see the medical supplies donated to Trinity. The basement kitchen area is nearly overflowing, thanks to all of you.

That being said, it also bears repeating that those items are available for YOUR use! There are a few wheelchairs, arm slings, compression stockings, and even a shower bag for a cast, to name a few. How about a massage cushion? Some items might come in handy for first aid such as Ace warps and Band-Aids. So please think of TUCC for yourselves or those loved ones in times of need. Ask any of our medical professionals for help if needed. Thanks! Robin Hansen.

THANK YOU

“Trinity Women’s Fellowship, On behalf of The Salvation Arm of Northwest Ohio and those who will benefit from your generous donation, please accept our heartfelt thanks and appreciation. We are grateful for your partnership in meeting the needs of the community.”

~The Salvation Army NW Ohio Area

“Thank you to the Christmas carolers for thinking of us. We enjoyed the singing very much. Then Christmas cheer plate of goodies was delicious and the decorations from the children were very pretty. What a nice surprise! We are blessed to have such a nice, thoughtful group of young people in our church. Thank you again and may God bless each and everyone of you.”

~Don & Bonnie Weaver

“Thank you so much for your continued support of the BCS Food Pantry. Without your donations, we could not continue to help those in need. God Bless you and keep you healthy and happy.”

~The BCS Food Pantry

“To my wonderful Church:

I thank every one of you for remembrance. Thank you Pastor Ryan for your praers for Ted during this very tough time while he is treating for prostate cancer. At this time, Ted is doing well. Thank you Rhonda for the Monday showing of church services. And you who donated cookies, I thank you for your kindness and “sweetness”.

~Fay Bolander

“Thank you so much for the wonderful plate of cookies, etc. What an unexpected and nice surprise! May God Bless each one of you!”

~Lauren & Faye Milbrodt

2030 Vision

Phase One Proposal

Process: Last year in coordination with the Pastor and Church Council, the 2030 Team was called together with the purpose of long-term planning and vision for Trinity Elliston UCC. Members were selected to represent different demographics from within our congregation and approved by the Church Council. Beginning to meet in 2020, this team discussed various topics from TUCC's history and the results of recent Visioning Open Forum's held by Pastor Ryan Shields last year. As this conversation progressed, the 2030 Team found three areas that we believe will benefit from long-term goals and vision casting. These three areas are **Missions & Outreach, Spiritual Development Programming, and Facilities Maintenance**. This proposal represents Phase One of a ten year church revitalization and restoration plan. We are reminded that the 2030 Team has no formal authority under the Constitution of Trinity Elliston, but will serve as dreamers, researchers, and brainstormers as we all seek to discern God's direction for our church going forward. May we all strive to see lives changed for Christ as we are invited on the discipleship journey: to **COME, CONNECT, GROW, and GO**.

Missions & Outreach

Project: Set benevolence goals of \$13,000 for the year 2021, rallying the church behind ministry partners that we can build lasting relationships with, not just as financial supporters, but allies in faith.

Purpose: Trinity has done well for many years in benevolence giving, ranging from \$10,000-\$17,000 annually for the past several years. Often this work represents the giving of a small handful of individuals, and the recipients of this benevolence are not widely known to the congregation. Setting a goal of \$13,000 for benevolence and missionary giving, we believe we can unite the church in sharing the blessings of God outside of our walls. \$13,000 represents roughly 10% of our annual general operating budget. Believing that God has called us to be faithful stewards of the blessings we receive; we think this is a good and manageable goal to share our blessing with others. Additionally, by selecting and widely advertising our ministry relationships, we open the door for not just financial assistance but relationship building and long-lasting mutual care and ministry. A selection of ministry partners has been recommended representing Local, Regional, and Global missionary partners.

A breakdown of planned benevolence giving for 2021:

- \$4000 Food Pantries (Split between four area food pantries)
- \$3,000 Northwest Ohio Association Benevolence Funds
- \$1500 Toledo Ministry Partners (Grace Community Center/That Neighborhood Church)
- \$2400 Missions Spotlight (\$200 each to 12 projects selected by Missions Team)
- \$1,600 Jay and Zina Herman (Genoa Graduate/Missionary to Slovenia)
- \$500 Other World Missions

Plan: This benevolence goal would be announced at the Annual Meeting and we would ask the congregation to contribute through special offerings throughout the year. Progress would be charted in the Tidings and milestone moments would be announced during church services.

Spiritual Development Programming:

Project: Allocation of Surplus Funds to seed ministry teams.

Purpose: Our financial standing for 2020 has shown God's true blessing upon us. Trinity, like many churches, has experienced abundant years and lean years. In faithfulness to the abundance of this year, we are asking that surplus funds from the year 2020 be allocated in 2021 as seed money for new ministry opportunities for our ministry teams. Our ministry teams have never received standard budget allotments and therefore have depended on the resources and ingenuity of their volunteers to self-fund or fundraise for their ministries. We believe by providing seed money we can expand their ministry work while relieving any financial burden they may be experiencing. We would pray that God's blessing would continue for many years and that these allotments would become part of our standard budget in the future and may inspire us to allocate funds for paid youth ministry staff.

Recommended allotments of \$5,500 for 2020 Surplus:

- \$1000 Branching Out
- \$1000 Thrive
- \$1000 MS/HS Youth
- \$500 Education for All
- \$2000 Missions & Outreach Team

Plan: As of today (12/30/20) Trinity Elliston's General Operating Fund has a surplus of \$28,209.26 YTD and a total General Operating Fund of \$43,019.23. We recommend transfer of these funds by 12/31/20.

Facilities Maintenance:

Project: Children/Youth Classroom Renovations

Purpose: Building on the recommendation for ministry teams and investing in their programming, we recommend a facilities investment to better utilize physical space for spiritual growth. An investment in creating a more inviting, comfortable, and age-appropriate learning space will not only enhance spiritual direction but general enjoyment of the church experience. We believe every dollar spent creating a more enjoyable atmosphere for spiritual growth in our children and youth is an investment in the future generations of this church. These renovations will include: more comfortable and age-appropriate furniture, additional learning resources, aesthetic changes, and (if feasible) new technological resources.

2030 Vision

Phase One Proposal Continued

Plan: We anticipate a renovation of this size to cost between \$10,000-\$15,000. Memorial gifts in honor of Susie Wittman and Betty Kadlick have already been allocated in the amount of \$2,895.51. We recommend engaging the congregation in supporting this renovation with contributions by raising between \$5,000-\$7,000 and the congregation's contributions being matched from 2020 Surplus Funds. As of today (12/30/20) Trinity Elliston's General Operating Fund has a surplus of \$28,209.26 YTD and a total General Operating Fund of \$43,019.23. Progress will be frequently advertised on Sunday mornings and in the monthly Tidings with desired goal to begin renovations Summer 2021.

Project: ADA Compliant Upgrade to North Doors

Purpose: To increase accessibility and ease of use, we recommend adding automatic door opening mechanisms to our North doors. Combined with access to our elevator system, this will create a proper main entranceway for those who might require assistance. Additionally, this upgrade will allow our doors to become complaint with current ADA recommendations. We believe this will be for the benefit of many in our congregation including people with disabilities, the elderly, and those with young children. Our prayer would be that continued renovations to the North Side Entrance would help create a welcoming and inviting church environment.

Plan: Three quotes were received with much variation on scope of project and cost. We recommend accepting the bid from Northwood Door LLC of \$4,449.20 plus \$180 for a two-year extended warranty on parts and a one-year labor warranty. Northwood Door would also be asked to perform general maintenance to existing doors and rekeying work for the building. An electrician would need to be contracted to provide power to the mechanism. Estimated total cost of around \$6,500. We recommend calling together the Expanders and TLC social groups of the church and asking them to fund this project in part or in full.

PHASE ONE SUMMARY:

\$13,000 raised through congregational giving for Benevolence.
\$5,500 of 2020 Surplus transferred to various ministry teams.
\$10-15,000 Classroom Renovation
 \$2895.51 Wittman/Kadlick Memorials
 \$5-7,000 Congregational Giving
 \$5-7,000 Church Match from 2020 Surplus.
\$6,500 ADA Door/Rekeying Project from Expanders/TLC Funds

Church Council Minutes

The Trinity United Church of Christ, Elliston Church Council met on Monday, November 9th, 2020. At 7:00 pm. Nyla Denman, President, called meeting to order, and Pastor Ryan Shields opened with prayer. Those in attendance were as follows:

President Nyla Denman, Vice President Desirae McCloskey, Faith Sutter, Bonnie Weaver, Marty Hoeft, Ed Gahler, Nate Diekman, Brad Jess, Jayson Hayes, Troy Wittman, Jim Buhro, Pastor Ryan Shields, and Church Secretary Rhonda Mahaney were present. Eric Gahler was absent. Robin Hansen was also present on behalf of the 2030 Vision Committee.

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 Troy Wittman, second by Desirae McCloskey, MC.

Secretary Report:

Photo Directory Update
 Waiting to hear back from printing
PPP Loan forgiveness application has been submitted
 We received our approval letter and the entire loan has been forgiven
Boilers leak was repaired 10/26/2020
Certificate of Continue of Business was filed on 10/27/2020 good for 5 years
Amy is on vacation from 12/19-1/4
 Rhonda is willing to fill in

Financial Report:

Review of current budget was made by present council members
Approval of financial report by first Nate Diekman, and second by Bonnie Weaver, MC.

Pastor Report:

Worship

Church attendance remains consistent with new tracking guidelines. In-person attendance this month was consistently in the high 80s with 30-50 people watching at home. I did speak to a few members who still have great concerns about Covid precautions and won't return until there are stricture protocols or the end of the pandemic.

Council then discussed how to move forward with the ongoing pandemic. Decided to send out a reminder to members about church guidelines. Also will post signs that strongly encourage masks and social distancing.

Communion served on November 1st
All Saints Day celebrated on November 1st with 8 memorial members.

Baptism held for Dylan Jean Gahler on 11/8

Ministry Teams

Branching Out and THRIVE meet and are doing well

The Deep Dive Bible Study continues. Good

conversation and small groups. Will go on Hiatus during Advent.

TUCC HUNT: Missions did a great job providing a little bit of Halloween excitement for the church. BooFest will probably continue to be the model in healthy years, but was fun to have a social distanced adventure.

Missions Team: Raised \$400 for local food pantries and gave generous item donations. Next project is the Elmore Community Thanksgiving. Also visited Grace Community Center with Jan.

2030 Team has a Phase One Proposal
Worship Team: Plans for Christmas Eve made and suggestion of a Blue Christmas service and still finding a way to do caroling and visiting for our 80+ population.

A Praise Band will be called together and leading worship music on December 13th

Pastoral Ministries

Many phone calls visits this month, specifically around All Saints Day. A couple in person office visits as some people are starting to feel more comfortable getting out.

Communion given to those watching services separately on Monday morning.

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

Upcoming

Baptism for Dawson McCloskey on 11/15

Christmas Praise Band December 13th

Blue Christmas Service December 21st

Children's Christmas Program December 20th

Christmas Eve Service December 24th @7 PM

Committee Reports:

Worship Team

Planning Christmas Eve Service

EFY- Branching Out & THRIVE

Discussed branching out and created a list of items needed for lessons and updating toys.

Shelf in nursery needs to be screwed into wall.

Discussed potential updates for branching out rooms

Plan to do practice for Christmas program starting after Thanksgiving

Discussed church camp options

Looking for somewhere closer than Michindoh

Mission

See mission highlights above in Pastor's Report

Elmore community Thanksgiving upcoming

Trustee Report

Repairing roof

Gym lights being repaired

Keaston willing to work on barn, minor repairs, and making it presentable

Estimating \$4,000

Motion by first Marty Hoeft and second by Nate Diekman, MC.

Outside cleanup Saturday November 14th at 10 a.m.

Pastoral Relations Committee

Nothing new at this time

Church and Ministry

Met to discuss employee evaluations

2030 Team

Robin Hansen present on behalf of the 2030 Vision

Committee

Presented a phase one proposal to Church Council

1. \$13,000 raised through congregational giving for Benevolence
2. \$5,500 of 2020 Surplus transferred to various ministry teams.
3. \$10-\$15,000 Classroom Renovation
 - a. \$2,895.51 Wittman/Kadlick Memorials
 - b. \$5-7,000 Congregational Giving
 - c. \$5-7,000 Church Match from 2020 Surplus
4. \$6,500 ADA Door/Rekeying Project from Expanders/TLC Funds
Motion to adopt proposal by first Faith Sutter and second by Jim Buhro, MC.

Old Business:

Marty to talk to Donna Witt about easement updates

New Business:

Evelyn Schimming Will

First and last right to purchase home or land
Will wait to hear appraisal before making a decision

Proposed Changes to Constitution

Members will take time to review changes before making final motion to approve proposed changes

December Meeting vs January Annual Meeting

Motion to move back December Annual

Meeting to a January Annual Meeting

Motion by first Ed Gahler and second by Nate Diekman, MC.

Pastor Ryan and Rhonda excused to discuss Church and Ministries recommendations for staff

A motion was made by first Jim Buhro and second by Nate Diekman to approve recommendations from Church and Ministry, MC.

Motion to adjourn meeting by first Desirae McCloskey and second by Nate Diekman, MC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm by Nyla Denman.

Respectfully submitted, Faith Sutter, Recording Secretary.

General Operating Fund Report (approved)

Beginning 11/1/20	\$49,816.80
Offering/Income	\$10,679.11
Expenses	\$18,894.16
Balance 11/30/20	\$41,602.35

JANUARY MISSION SPOTLIGHT

The Mission Spotlight for KEERSTIN PELOW: The World Race

Keerstin Pelow is a Genoa High School graduate who has volunteered for a 6-month gap year mission trip, beginning in Nicaragua in January 2021. Keerstin is participating in this mission experience through an organization called the World Race. The World Race lists the following potential ministry opportunities in Nicaragua: Building Christian relationships in the community which include sports leagues, jail ministry, Bible studies, hospital visits, working on farms and at the local community center. Additionally, members of Keerstin's route will be working with an area orphanage and Christian academy connecting kids with the message of Jesus Christ.

"I have a feeling this trip is going to change my life and I'm so ready for it. I think it's going to be challenging and hard but going to be the most rewarding because I get to teach others about the Lord and not even teach but show God's love by our actions to people who need it so badly. And, I get to do that with a team I hope to build relationships with and be on this beautiful pilgrimage we've ever experienced so far in our lives" -Keerstin Pelow

Mission Spotlight contributions for the month of January will go to help fund Keerstin's gap year mission experience.

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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