

Trinity UCC
17955 West 3rd Street
Elliston, OH 43432
tucc1862@gmail.com
419-862-3417



November 2020
Volume 94, Issue 11

News From Pastor Ryan:

FIRST FRUITS:

Hello Church,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. After the crazy year we've had, it's hard to believe we are in the closing days of 2020. Many are anxious about a winter that will still be ringing with questions about politics and pandemics. But, despite the chaos around us, we must not forget to celebrate our upcoming holiday season with joy. That includes giving thanks to God, even when we might struggle to be thankful this year.

Holidays are important events. They center us. They inspire us to cling to simple truths like the value of family and community. They remind us to be thankful and generous. We know that this year there will be many who continue to struggle with loss or isolation, but we must do our best to share the love of Jesus Christ with our entire community.

Holidays and Festivals were important to the ancient Jewish people as well. In Jesus' day there were seven major feasts throughout the year that would be celebrated. Four in the spring and three in the autumn. Some of these festivals were not unlike Holidays we celebrate today. Passover was and is a widely celebrated festival for God's salvation. The Feast of the Tabernacles ended the year and asked God to provide rain in the winter so they would have crops in the Spring. And in the spring, when the crops grew, the ancient Jewish people would celebrate the Feast of First Fruits. They would gather together and see their harvest and then take the first and the best of the crop and give it over to God. They would give thanks for everything that was good and perfect that we might receive. In the New Testament, Paul goes as far as to call Jesus the First Fruit of the dead. The best and perfect example of what humanity can be.

As we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas this year, it's easy to focus on all we've lost. It's easy to focus on the dark and the dismay. But do you have it in you to raise up your First Fruits? What has this year given you that has been good? What have you been blessed with? The people of Israel gave God the good stuff. Even in lean years, even in dark years, they humbled themselves and acknowledged that whatever good we have has come from God.

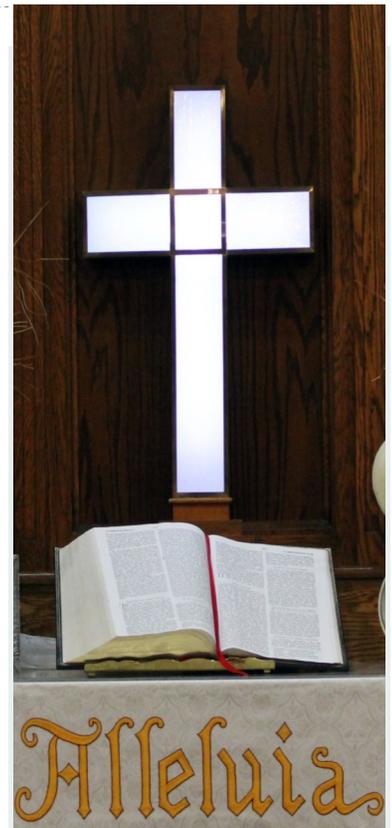
Because the First Fruit is a promise fulfilled. The First Fruit means that after a dark and cold winter the ground is still fertile, the sun still shines, and light has still come. The First Fruit means God has kept his promise. So out of his bounty, we give. Perhaps more than most years we can look through the dark, cold winter and ask "Will God keep his promise? Will we see the sun on the other side? Is the best still yet to come?"

Let this be a hope that carries us through the holidays and the winter. God is still good. God is still with us and for us. Out of our blessing we still give God the First Fruit, knowing that He keeps His promises.

*Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;
then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.*

-Proverbs 3:9-10

-Pastor Ryan



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- November 1st—7:30 am Men's Breakfast
- November 1st —All Saint's Day during service
- November 9th—Church Council
- December 6th—7:30 am Men's Breakfast

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)

**WORSHIP
SERVICE
INFORMATION**

FIRST FRUITS

- 11/8 – The First Fruits
- 11/15- The Passover
- 11/22- The Tabernacle
- 11/29- Advent Begins!

**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 family of Evelyn Schimming. We would like to thank the following for their memorials given in her name.

- Sara & Myron Zibbel, Doyle & Helen Sommer, Doug & Karen Lick, Don & Bonnie Weaver

Memorial Thank You

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Glenn Sager. We would like to thank the following for their memorials given in her name.

- Doyle & Helen Sommer,



Thank You

“We would like to thank everyone that gave a memorial in memory of Lavonna.”

~The Bittner Family
Don, Shelley, Laurie

THANK YOU

“Thank you so much for your donation to the Elmore Food Pantry. The generosity of people like you is what feeds our hungry neighbors. Your donation is appreciated by all of us who volunteer at the pantry, and by those whom we serve. May you be blessed in your giving.”

~Elmore Food Pantry

“Thank you so much for your continued support as we prepare for the holiday season. Every penny helps. We are blessed to have such generous people in our community. Thank you again and God bless you.”

~The BCS Food Pantry

“Thank you so much for your recent contribution to the Genoa Area Community Food Pantry. We are so grateful for your generous donation to the pantry. In this troubling time we are experiencing, this donation will help the food pantry to continue its mission of serving community members in need.”

~Genoa Area Food Pantry

ALL SAINTS DAY

NOVEMBER 1ST

On Sunday November 1st, we will honor all our Saints who have left us this year.

Lavonna Bittner

Ina David

Ken Gahler

Annette Gillman

Betty Kadlick

Glenn Sager

Evelynn Schimming

Susie Wittman

From Trinity Tidings of Years Gone By —

January 1952

Wire Recording of Christmas Service

Your pastor borrowed a wire recorder from Kingston Ganske and took down the Christmas Morning service. Then in his visits to the shut-ins he played the recording. Many were the words of appreciation which came from their hearts as they were given the chance to share in the Christmas service with us. Because of their appreciation a "Wire-Recording-Fund" has been set up, with the hopes that we can soon have one permanently for church use. There are some many uses for such a machine and many of our churches already have one. Then fund has grown to \$17 and we know that more will want to contribute towards it. That would be a nice gift four our 90th anniversary. Let us keep it in mind as the year progresses.

BRANCHING OUT NEWS
TEACHERS

Date	2-3 Nursery	PreK Teacher	K-2 Teacher
Week 1	Rebecca R.	Desirae M.	Kylene L.
Week 2	Faith S.	Brittany W.	Janene L.
Week 3	Jen L.	Ashley G.	Ashley Z.
Week 4	LouAnn Z.	Casi J.	Jamie K.

THRIVE Teachers: Dan G., Nyla D., Jan C.

Christian Education News!!!!



Men's Breakfast Is Back!!!! Men are invited to join us on Sunday, November 1st & December 6th 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.

TITHE.LY

Giving to your local church using 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. 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 gift!

THE DEEP DIVE

THE DEEP DIVE WILL CONTINUE THROUGH SUNDAY 11/22 BEFORE BREAKING FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

Have you ever left on Sunday morning and wished you could talk about what you heard? Has a message ever resonated with a story from your own life? Each Sunday after church, we invite you to the DEEP DIVE. Each week we'll take a look at that week's message and ask how it applies to our own lives. We'll get to know each other better, and dive deeper in Scripture. Our prayer is that by diving deeper, we won't just hear a message, we'll take it into the world and use it. Hope to see you there.

Church Council Minutes

The Trinity United Church of Christ, Elliston Church Council met on Monday, September 14th, 2020. At 7:01 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, Troy Wittman, Marty Hoeft, Eric Gahler, Ed Gahler, Jim Buhro, Jayson Hayes, Pastor Ryan Shields, and Church Secretary Rhonda Mahaney were present. Nate Diekman and Brad Jess were absent.

Reports:

Recording Secretary: Meeting minutes from the August council meeting were read prior to the meeting by members. Motion to accept the minutes were made by first Ed Gahler, second by Troy Wittman, MC.

Secretary Report:

Photo Directory Update

Edited on proof of the directory and sent back for an additional proof to be sent back for review again.

PPP Loan forgiveness application has been submitted

Still waiting to hear back on it. Been in communications with the bank.

AED unit battery and pads were replaced

Boilers have been serviced and all issues on insurance report were corrected. One needs a new part.

Propane price for the new year

\$0.92

Same as last year and with the same company

Financial Report:

Memorial funds have been donated for various remodeling within the church

Need to set up a budget meeting in October to prepare for new year budget

Review of current budget was made by present council members

Approval of financial report by first Desirae McCloskey, and second by Ed Gahler, MC.

Pastor Report:

Worship

People slowly getting more comfortable with returning to worship. During August we moved closer to 50% regular attendance in building with 30-40 still regularly streaming. Branching Out and THRIVE have returned which we expect to increase in person attendance.

Communion served at home and in person on September 13th

Held Worship Picnic on August 29th with worship music by Pastor Ryan, Jennifer Laughlin and Donnie Ray. Honored Rev. Corbin for his 50th year of ordination. People

seemed to really enjoy the chance to gather outside and I heard many good reports. Was great to see so many of our kids again.

Events/Activities

Branching Out and THRIVE ministries have returned. After meeting with EFY they were very adamant about the need for children's ministry to continue. Thrive is now every week, meaning our youth program has expanded to providing weekly programming from age 2-6th grade. We hope to continue to expand on that.

Rhonda and I led the tech team for the NWOA Annual Meeting on August 1st. Rev. Corbin acknowledged for 50 years of Ordained Ministry.

Church Family Night @ The Drive In: Partnering with at least one other local church to rent out Sundance Kid Drive In on Monday October 5th. Gates open at 6:30 with movie between 7:15-7:30. Family Friendly Animated Feature. More details to come this week.

An approval was needed to place a \$500 deposit. Motion was made by 1st Troy Wittman and 2nd by Jim Buhro, MC.

TUCC 101 Class: On September 23rd 7:00 PM Pastor Ryan will present "TUCC 101" online and in person in the sanctuary. TUCC 101 will be a membership class to help new, prospective, or long-term members become familiar with the history of the church, the denomination, and our faith practice. Great opportunity to brush up on things you forgot from confirmation or for newer folks to be introduced to our church.

Memorial funds have come in with specific projects in mind. A memorial A/C fund has been established as well as a memorial Classroom Upgrade fund.

Request \$1000 from our summer gift to be placed in the Missons Fund so it can be earmarked for Missions projects.

Motion was made by 1st Troy Wittman and 2nd by Ed Gahler, MC.

Pastoral Ministries

Was allowed to perform visits at the Care Center, St. Charles Hospital, and in the home of a member this month. Visitation is slowly becoming a more realistic endeavor. The hospital visits are difficult depending on the severity of condition.

Weddings coming up for Michael Sager & Keriann Kish, Troy VanTrease & Hannah Morrison (non-affiliated), and Devin

Longeway & Marissa Crosby (non-affiliated and outside of the church).

Worked with Rhonda on a new Building Use Policy to help create some consistency in building use going forward.

to church for congregational approval

County will now be able to come out and draw up easement (split bill with Donna Witt) will present to congregation as well

Committee Reports:

Worship Team

Church Picnic took place

EFY- Branching Out & THRIVE

Meet and discussed plan of returning

Mission

Drive-in and replacement for Boo Fest upcoming
School supplies donated to Oak Harbor, Woodmore, and Genoa

Trustee Report

Painting throughout the church
Gathering quotes
One quote received for gym lights, and plan to get another quote to compare
See Old/New Business

Pastoral Relations Committee

Nothing new at this time

2030 Team

Met August 20th

Willing to help work on AC/insulation and present to council

Goal to look at long-term and bigger plans for church

Prioritizing 5-6 projects to present to council

Old Business:

AC quotes

Received quotes and in process with a few companies to compare

New Business:

Advertising

Within schools

Plays/newspapers/etc.

Set monetary limit of \$200 to each school (Oak Harbor, Woodmore, and Genoa) in advertisement, and have to be approached by a student to support.

Motion was made by 1st Faith Sutter, 2nd by Marty Hoeft, MC.

Congregational Meeting

Bill from Yackee

Tile cleaned and marked

Three cleanouts now in place

Were unaware of initial cost

\$5,800 to be explained and presented

Motion to adjourn meeting by first Bonnie Weaver and second by Faith Sutter, MC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm by Nyla Denman.

Respectfully submitted, Faith Sutter, Recording Secretary.

General Operating Fund Report (approved)

Beginning 9/1/20	\$44,648.27
Offering/Income	\$11,290.81
Expenses	\$10,364.17
Balance 9/30/20	\$45,574.91

Congregational Minutes

Congregational Meeting Minutes Sept 20, 2020

Nyla called the meeting to order at 10:35 to discuss a bill we got for Yackee for \$5800. Donna Witt had asked us to pay for half of the costs to making an easement for our tile that runs through her farm land to the creek. In order to do that, we needed to know exactly where the tile was, so we had Yackee come out and find the tile. While doing that, we discovered that the tile was majorly blocked, we had Adkins out to clean and install 3 cleanouts in the tile. The total bill for the work was \$5800.

Janene L. made a motion to pay the bill. Sara Z. 2nd the motion. A discussion was had that we will still need to pay for 1/2 the cost of the easement, which we don't know how much that will be. Donna W wanted everyone to know that none of her field tiles drain into our main tile. Janene withdrew her motion and made a new motion to say that we pay this bill and also pay the future 1/2 of the easement costs. Sara Z 2nd. No discussion. MC

Janene L moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:45. Jane G. 2nd. MC

Submitted, Rhonda Mahaney, Administrative Assistant

NOVEMBER MISSION SPOTLIGHT



MISSION SPOTLIGHT: Elmore Community Thanksgiving. For over a decade now friends and neighbors in Elmore have offered a free thanksgiving meal on Thanksgiving Day at Woodmore High School for those who couldn't afford it, or would otherwise be alone for holiday. Some 500 people were served last year. This year, being such a strange year it's hard to tell how many will be served, but they expect the need to be great. The team running this free meal also collects for local food pantries and toys for tots. You can give using our normal offering baskets, Tithe.ly or drop off.

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Trinity UCC

17955 W 3rd Street
Elliston, OH 43432

Phone: 419-862-3417

E-mail: tucc1862@gmail.com

Facebook:

[trinityunitedchurchofchristElliston](https://www.facebook.com/trinityunitedchurchofchristElliston)

YouTube: Trinity Elliston

Website: trinityelliston.org

Pastor Ryan Shields

ryandshields@outlook.com

419-410-5309

