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News From Pastor Ryan:

Greetings Church,

I write you today to update you on the status of our regathering plan for worship here at Trinity UCC. That's a term that I like that many churches are using now. The church was never closed, we just chose not to gather. Now, we are making plans and accommodations to gather again. We know there are many who are reading right now who might not feel ready to regather, and that's okay. But, for those who feel we can now safely gather again, we are going to move forward today. It is my sincere hope that this plan accommodates almost everyone and allows for the continued celebration of worship at Trinity UCC.

You church council did not come to these decisions lightly. There was much discussion. Church council's determining factor in many of these points is personal responsibility. As we looked at the safeguards and policies that we could implement, no amount of safeguards or policies could make up for the simple fact that if you are not yet comfortable being in a crowd or participating in worship, you should continue to stay home until new information comes out. We will do our best to social distance. We will do our best to follow best practices, but our best practices are no match for your personal judgment. If you have concerns about any of our regathering plan, it is recommended you continue to worship at home via Facebook or YouTube, and arrangements have been made for smaller showing of church services as well. Your council welcomes your input on any of our regathering plan.

There are two major agenda items I wish to share with you, followed by further explanation.

1. Beginning this Sunday, June 14th, we will begin to regather at Trinity UCC at 9:30 am to share in community during worship. This will be the first phase of our regathering. During phase one we will be showing the same prerecorded church service that is currently shown on Facebook and YouTube, but you will have the opportunity to worship with your friends and neighbors in the church building as we return to our worship services.

2. If you are currently someone who watches services online and prefers to keep in that way, you will still be provided the same content each Sunday at 9:30 am streaming on Facebook and YouTube. During our phase one, you'll watch the church service right along those who are viewing it in the building. We have purchased new equipment to improve our ability to livestream services from the sanctuary directly to Facebook and YouTube. So, when phase two begins, we will no longer prerecord services but instead you will watch them as they happen. A merging of our online church community and our in



FYI—July's Tiding's will also be a little late and will not be published until after the July 13th Church Council Meeting. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

VBS

Vacation Bible School

Due to COVID-19, we are going to cancel VBS for this year.

RUMMAGE SALE

Because of the current COVID-19 situation, we are not going to be able to hold a rummage sale this year. Let's plan for one next year (hopefully).

~Karen

person worship. We expect to begin this phase in 2-4 weeks. It is important to note that we will need 2-3 additional volunteers to ensure this livestream can be broadcast with high quality.

Now, what does in person church look like going forward. These were the questions we really wrestled with. And I want to remind the congregation that council's opinion was **STRONGLY** to put your personal responsibility and comfort level at the forefront. Ask yourself these questions, would you go to a restaurant right now? Would you attend a wedding or reception? Would you attend a family party? If you feel it's still uncertain whether you could safely participate in those activities, it is probably better for you to continue to worship at home. As we regather, you must be your own personal advocate for what level of community participation you think is safe. The church will have limited ability to police the behavior of those in attendance, so you must be willing to advocate safe practices for yourself.

Here will be the guidelines and recommendations for returning to in person worship:

1. Everyone planning to attend is asked to prescreen themselves and to stay home if they have any signs of illness (including a fever, cough, chills, headache, sore throat), pre-existing conditions that make them exceptionally vulnerable, or are otherwise uncomfortable with large gatherings for any other reason.
2. The sanctuary is currently marked off to allow for some social distancing as we return to in-person worship. We encourage social distancing; however, we will leave to you and your family the discretion of distance between others. If you are comfortable sitting near a friend or neighbor, we will not ask you to move. Please be respectful of other people's space as you enter and exit the sanctuary. We will not limit capacity in the Sanctuary and instead encourage you to use your best judgment.
3. Masks are encouraged, but not required, especially when entering and exiting the building.
4. Singing is a point of much debate. The current medical recommendation is to not sing, as singing creates a larger spread of contaminating droplets. However, the Council has agreed that part of returning to in-person worship is agreeing to take on these risks. We will allow singing in the sanctuary; we do ask that if you plan to sing you **STRONGLY** consider wearing a mask to limit spread.
5. Children's activities such as Branching Out and upfront Children's moment will be on pause for the time being. Each service will still contain a child specific element that can be enjoyed from the congregation.
6. Certain rituals that involve touch or passing of plates will be paused. We will not have regular in-person communion for the time being. Offering will be collected in boxes at the front or the back of the Sanctuary. There will be no handshake/greeting time.
7. Both main entryways will be opened with doors propped. We intend to limit contact at the entryways.
8. While all bathrooms are available, in order to make cleaning and sanitizing easier, we ask you to consider using the 2 main bathrooms near the South doors.
9. You may notice Pastor Ryan or a volunteer taking attendance of specific individuals present. If a member of the congregation were to contract Covid-19 we would want to be able to announce to the congregation, and personally contact those who were in church with this individual. Our goal is to not suspend in person services again.
10. Members of the church are welcome to use the building again for small group activities. We ask that you make a reservation so we can maintain a clear account for who is in the building. Depending on the time of your activity, a small cleaning fee may be accessed.

This is our way forward. I started this time of quarantine with a message to the congregation that we were stepping into the unknown, not knowing what the days of Covid-19 would bring to our community. Now, we take another step forward. Our church community in two places, but reaching out to be a light unto the world. We know we can't know every possible outcome going forward, but we believe it is time for those who are able to return to the church building. There will still be questions going forward about what church life will look like, and we will continue to ask God to guide ours step.

Whether it's through a video camera or back in person, I can't wait to see you in church and share in the love of God again.

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;*

*in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight*

Proverbs 3:5-6

~~~~ Pastor Ryan

## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Susan "Susie" J. Wittman, 71, of Genoa, passed away on Thursday, June 4, 2020 at the Genoa Retirement Village where she was a resident for the past year and a half. She was born in Toledo on March 20, 1949 to Bernard and Betty (Brossia) Wittman.

Susie was a 1967 Harris-Elmore High School graduate. She was very active in her church, Trinity United Church of Christ in Elliston. Susan taught Sunday School for 30 years, was a member of the Church council, helped on various committees, and went to school for 5 years to become a Lay Minister. She had a deep love of religious music; she sang in the church choir, played the chord organ and started the "TRINITY TWEETHEARTS". Susan worked with family as the church janitors for many years while growing up and also in the 90's until 2001. She was the President of the area Christian Singles in the 1970's-1980's.

Susie originally worked as a Pharmacy Tech in the Toledo Health & Retiree Center and then at the Union Prescription Center until her retirement in 1989. She enjoyed traveling, reading, sewing, doing different crafts and square dancing. Susie also volunteered at Park View and would babysit for several area families.

Susie is survived by her sister, Carol Cheatham of Genoa; brother, William B. (MaryAnn) Wittman of Millbury; nieces, Christina Morrow of Toledo and Cathleen Chevalier of Oregon; great-nieces, Michaela Sortman and Serenity & Sydney Wittman; great-nephew, Brandon Sortman; and several cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Barbara Wittman; nephew, Robert Wittman; and grandparents, Oliver & Elizabeth Brossia and John & Alvina Wittman.

Visitation for Susie will be held on Monday, June 8, 2020 from 2-6 p.m. at the Robinson-Walker Funeral Home & Crematory, 501 West St., Genoa, OH. Due to the current coronavirus pandemic the family asks anyone who is sick or has concerns to please refrain from attending. Social distancing and hand hygiene restrictions will be observed during the visiting hours. A Graveside Service will be conducted 11 a.m., Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at Elliston Cemetery, Elliston with Pastor Ryan Shields officiating. A Celebration of Life with a fellowship meal will be held at a later date when it's safe for everyone to attend. Those wishing to give memorial donations may do so towards the Trinity U.C.C. Memorial Fund. Online condolences may be shared with the family at [www.walkerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.walkerfuneralhomes.com).

## BENEVOLENCE GIVINGS SO FAR THIS YEAR

We would like to thank everyone for continuing your support for our Benevolence this year. Because of your financial contributions, we have been able to send out to the following organizations.

BCS Summer Food Program  
Genoa Food Pantry  
Oak Harbor Food Pantry  
FCA of NWOH  
Grace Community

We look forward to supporting those and many others through out this year.

### Memorial Thank You

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

Trinity Women's Fellowship, Melvin & Norma Reif, Jim & Jen Laughlin, Paul & Robin Hansen, Doyle & Helen Sommer, Myron & Sara Zibbel

*In Loving Memory*

### Memorial Thank You

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Anette Gillman (Michelle Avery's Mother). We would like to thank the following for their memorials given in her name.

Melvin & Norma Rief, Myron & Sara Zibbel 3

## THANK YOU

“Thank you for your online services and keeping our community safe with God”  
~Church Member

“You made our day! Thank you so much for your generous donation. Without help from groups like yours, we could not continue to help those in need. Thanks again and God Bless you all.”  
~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 donations. In this troubling time we are experiencing, your donation will help the food pantry to continue its mission of serving community members in need.”  
~Genoa Area Food Pantry

“We enjoy church each Sunday in fact I watch St. Peter before. We for one are in no hurry to mingle yet. Much as I miss everyone!!! I fear cases will increase as more “gather”. We skype the little ones and that helps. I’m thankful for Dean & Cassie to be here with me. They get Sunday Morning for me on TV. Stay Safe.!”  
~Eloise

### From the first Trinity Tidings—January 1927

#### Editorial Greeting

With this issue “The Trinity Tidings” makes its debut to the people of the Trinity Evangelical Church and their friends.

The name itself signifies its purpose—that is to bring the tidings of this church to all the community. We hope that it will be kindly received and that you will regard this little paper as a personal message.

It will be most difficult to tell the full value of a church paper. It gives us claim upon the friendship of all the people with which it comes in contact, because everybody will be interested in the monthly visitor that goes into many a home.

It also serves as an assistant to the Pastor and we hope that his desire for all the people to come and join in the activities of the church will be heard and responded to by all. As it is impossible for him to visit you as often as you would like him to, we ask of you to regard this as a visit from him and the church.

This paper of course will receive a criticism of both kinds—constructive and destructive. If the former be true, please inform the pastor, as this will give him the necessary inspiration for the success and continuance of this paper. Criticism which is constructive is a beneficial and necessary thing in any undertaking.

We wish to thank all who have in any way helped to organize and make its publication possible, and it is the one great desire that this paper will add life to the church, bring blessings to the people and help further the work of God through the church.

Long may the message of “The Trinity Tidings” be heard and read.

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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