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## News From Pastor Ryan:

### NORMAL-ISH

Hello church! I hope this newsletter finds you well, and it's hard to believe we are already looking toward the end of the summer season and Fall 2020 is right around the corner. Here at Trinity we have been continuing to look at what it means to return to "normal."

Something that struck me in many conversations recently was that recurring theme. Many people want to return to "normal." Others fear this new era of fear, masks, and distancing will become the "new normal" and the long-term effects that could have on business, families, and children. But what truly is "normal?" In World War 2, normal was rationing things like sugar, coffee, and meat. It was children and their parents searching for scrap rubber, metal, or nylon to contribute to the war effort. During the Great Depression, normal was using every scrap of food, wasting nothing, and often gathering for community meals in order to share the burden of feeding families. Many of our favorite traditions (casseroles and Church Potlucks) come out of Depression Era necessities. Smoking on airplanes used to be normal. Before 2001, running to your flight last minute...with your shoes still on...was normal. In Bible times it would have been considered normal to simply build an addition to your family home when a child got married, keeping the extended family unit close at all times.

Normal changes. God does not. I have been inspired by seeing churches all around adapt to the current norms. We're now past the moment of shock and surprise, now comes the time to work. God has ordained that you and I will live in this exact strange moment in history. This is the world we have been given. What will we do with it? Governor DeWine recently shared a Scripture during one of his press conferences:

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9*

It would be easy as churches and people to give up hope in times like these. It would be easier to say "nothing can be done" or scream about the doom and gloom around us. Is that the work we are called to? No. Christians are called to share the Gospel message and the Gospel means GOOD NEWS. There's still good news in times of mourning. There's still good news in times of death or disease. There's still good news in a season of political unrest. There's still good news in 2020.

If you find yourself looking around and asking, "Who is sharing good news?", I believe it is Biblical to suggest looking into the mirror.

*"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house" Matthew 5:14*

If you think our current world needs a little hope, some good news, someone to remind them of the goodness of God...that work begins with you and with me. We are the voices calling out to the world. We are the ones who continue the good work of the Gospel, leading others to the resurrection power of Jesus Christ. Don't give up. The work isn't done. -Pastor Ryan



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- ◆ Mission Team Meeting August 6th at 6:30pm
- ◆ Church Council August 10th at 7:00 pm
- ◆ EFY Meeting August 11th at 7:00 pm
- ◆ 2030 TEAM August 13th at 6:30pm

### CHURCH LAWN GATHERING:

On Saturday August 29th beginning at 11 A.M. we will have a time of fellowship and worship on the church lawn. We are asking families who are comfortable to come join us, bring lawn chairs, bring blankets, stay in your cars...whatever you are comfortable with so that the wider church family can safely gather and share in this time of music and fellowship. Pack a picnic lunch or ask to have a pizza ordered for your family when you RSVP!

To maintain safe distances, we are asking all families to RSVP for this event. Please call the church office to let us know if you would like to attend. We will place a group order to eat at 12:00 PM. If you would like us to order your lunch, please make that known when you call to RSVP. Pizza orders must be placed by Thursday August 27th.

## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

The Trinity United Church of Christ, Elliston Church Council met on Monday, June 8th, 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, Nate Diekman, Troy Wittman, Marty Hoeft, Brad Jess, Jayson Hayes, Eric Gahler, Ed Gahler, Jim Buhro, Pastor Ryan Shields, and Church Secretary Rhonda Mahaney were present.

### **Reports:**

Council main focus during this meeting was how the church would proceed with reopening. After discussion a motion was made that starting on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 we will open the church sanctuary for members that want to come view our prerecorded services until such a time that the tech team has decided that we can live stream services to the internet. We are not enacting a capacity limit nor are we marking for social distancing. Instead, everyone who enters will be told that they are entering at their own risk, and responsible for their own interaction with others. Masks will be encouraged, and if you sing you will be strongly encouraged to wear a mask. During this time we will have no contact rituals including no live communion, no passing of the plate for offering, no passing of the peace handshaking time, and everyone who attends will be encouraged to fellowship outside of the building if they wish to fellowship. Our two main bathroom areas will remain open as will the cry room and Amy Mathews will be in charge of cleaning on Sunday in high traffic areas, and another time during the week in the sanctuary area. We will track attendance during Sunday morning services in case someone test positive for COVID-19 so we will be able to notify those who were in attendance, as well as notify all members. If this happens, we will not cancel services again or shut down. Church groups and church members are able to meet in small groups within the building, but we will remain closed to outside events. The motion was made by first Nate Diekman and second by Brad Jess. MC.

Pastor Ryan will be on vacation the second week of July

Motion to adjourn meeting by first Brad Jess, and second by Nate Diekman, MC.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm by Nyla Denman.

Respectfully submitted, Faith Sutter, Recording Secretary.

### **General Operating Fund Report (approved)**

Beginning 6/1/20	\$37,509.72
Offering/Income	\$11,142.79
Transfers	(\$3,466.61)
Expenses	\$10,486.22
Balance 6/30/2020	\$34,699.68

Full financial reports are available upon request in the office and are now posted on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary.

### **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.

Oak Harbor Food Pantry  
Genoa Area Food Pantry  
Zion Methodist Food Pantry  
Ottawa County Family Advocacy Center  
NWOA Our Church Wider Mission

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

## IN PERSON WORSHIP GUIDELINES

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.

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>

## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

**Kenneth A. Gahler**, 68, of Elmore, Ohio, passed away Saturday, June 13, 2020, surrounded by his family after injuries sustained in a farming accident. Ken was born in Oregon, Ohio on September 21, 1951 to Rollie and Viola (Wasserman) Gahler. He was a 1969 graduate of Woodmore High School and was a graduate of Owens Technical College. Ken served in the Ohio Army National Guard- Red Horse Squadron in heavy equipment recovery. For 45 years, Ken worked in farm equipment sales; specializing in Case and International Harvester. A lifelong farmer, Ken worked alongside his father and brothers raising grain crops throughout Ottawa County. He was a lifelong member of Trinity United Church of Christ, Elliston where he served on many committees and participated in various ministries. Memberships included: Ohio Farm Bureau, Ohio Farm Union, and Ottawa County Soil and Water Conservation District. He had a passion for restoring farm equipment and driving his red Corvette. His true love was spending time with his children and grandchildren who brought him much joy.

Ken is survived by his mother, Viola Gahler; children, Heidi (Chris) Ankney, Kendra (Ron) Blevins, and Jason (Ruth) Gahler; grandchildren, Maddison, Bentley, Mackenzie, Samuel, and Judah; brothers, Wesley (Judy) Gahler, Edward (Jane) Gahler, and Daniel (Connie) Gahler; dear friend, Gary (Dianne) Welling; along with many nieces, nephews, loving family members and friends in the farming community and St. Charles Cardiac Rehab. He was preceded in death by his father, Rollie Gahler.

A Celebration of Ken's life will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, June 19, 2020 at Trinity United Church of Christ, 17955 West Third Street, Elliston. Interment will follow in Elliston Cemetery. Following the cemetery committal services, fellowship will follow at Dan Gahler's home. Those attending are encouraged to wear a mask, observe standard social distancing guidelines, and share memories of Ken with his family if you do not feel comfortable attending.

### Memorial Thank You

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

Richard & Nyla Denman, Lauren & Faye Milbrodt, John & Jackie Bast, Suzanne Buhro, Jan & Dawn Greieger & Marilyn Appelhans, Donna Schell, Fay Bolander Family, Eloise Hellwig Family, Ron & Elizabeth Ayotte Family, Jackie Pelton, Marsha Gallagher, Dwayne & Eva Hoeft, Doyle & Helen Sommer, Jim & Shirley Buhro, Paul & Robin Hansen, Evelyn Schimming, Ron & Kathy Giesler, Melvin & Norma Reif, Steve & Nancy Turnow, Dale & Ava Bodnar, Eric & Ashley Gahler, Ray & Ann David, Donna Witt, Mike & Ann Diekman

**Betty J. Kadlick**, 93, of Genoa, Ohio, formerly of Toledo, Ohio, died Saturday, June 13, 2020 at the Genoa Retirement Village, in Genoa. She was born in Toledo on July 28, 1926 the daughter of Frank and Anna (Hesoun) Straka, and graduated from Scott High School. On August 25, 1951, in Toledo, she married the love of her life, Frank J. Kadlick. He preceded her in death on December 9, 1993 after 42 years of marriage.

Betty was a data processor for the Toledo Board of Education for 25 years until her retirement and had worked for the former National Family Opinion in Toledo and Perrysburg, Ohio. Betty was very active her whole life as a member and gymnast of the Czechoslovakian Society of America, the German American Festival, where she peeled hundreds of pounds of potatoes and baked many sweets. She served as secretary for the GAF retirees Club for many years. Her children always remember her as being involved with the Toledo Public Schools, serving as secretary for the Oakdale PTA as well as any activities related to her children's school life. Betty could often be found working the polls during an election, knitting thousands of items that she would donate to deserving organizations and listening to her favorite Czech Polka music. She cherished her membership at the Trinity United Church of Christ, in Elliston, Ohio, and her volunteer hours spent as a member of the Trinity Women's Fellowship.

Betty is cherished by those she loves, her children, Douglas (Pam) Kadlick, Anna (Mike) Diekman and Frank (Diane) Kadlick; grandchildren, Chris (Lindsay), Sarah (Matt), Jeremy (Stephanie), Zach (Rebecca), Nathan, Jordan and Gage; and great grandchildren, Wesley, Mila, Callie, Brady, Abby, Georgia and Lucy. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; daughter, Mary Brymer; brothers, Arnold, Edward, Joe and Frank Straka; and sisters, Helen Komorowski and Agnes Preston.

Due to the restrictions on gatherings at this time, the family will conduct a private graveside service at Lake Township Cemetery, Millbury, Ohio. There will be a Celebration of Life service scheduled for a later date. The family suggests memorial contributions for Betty be directed to Trinity United Church of Christ, 17955 W. Third Street, Elliston, Ohio 43432.



# In Loving Memory

## Memorial Thank You

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

Richard & Nyla Denman, Lauren & Faye Milbrodt, John & Jackie Bast, Suzanne Buhro; Jan & Dawn Greiger, & Marilyn Appelhans, Fay Bolander Family, Eloise Hellwig Family, Ron & Elizabeth Ayotte Family, Jackie Pelton, Dwayne & Eva Hoeft, Doyle & Helen Sommer, Jim & Shirley Buhro, Paul & Robin Hansen, Evelyn Schimming, Melvin & Norma Reif, Steve & Nancy Turnow, Dan & Connie Gahler, Nathaniel Diekman, Mike & Ann Diekman

## 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.

Eloise Hellwig, Ron & Kathleen Giesler, Viola Gahler, Dou & Karen Lick, Lauren & Faye Milbrodt, Richard & Nyla Denman, Fay Bolander, Bon & Bonnie Weaver; Jan, Dawn, & Marilyn Appelhans, John & Jackie Bast, Jim & Shirley Buhro, Evelyn Schimming, Steve & Nancy Turnow, Donna Witt, Mike & Ann Diekman

**Lavonna J. Bittner**, 83, of Martin, passed away on Saturday, July 4, 2020 at her residence. She was born on May 19, 1937 in Toledo to Ralph and Mary (Cordrey) Clear. She was raised by her paternal grandmother until she married Don Bittner, with whom she spent 63 years of marriage.

Lavonna was an avid reader and was a member of many local book clubs in Genoa and Elmore. She loved traveling, having visited most of the states. Don and Lavonna were sprint car enthusiasts and followed many races across Ohio and Pennsylvania. She was an amazing pie baker with her specialty being a cherry peach pie. Lavonna also volunteered at Otterbein Portage Valley and was a member of Trinity United Church of Christ in Elliston, Ohio.

Lavonna is survived by her husband, Don; daughters, Shelley Beam and Laurie Parlette both of Perrysburg; 4 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren with #5 on the way. She was preceded in death by her parents; grandmother; and Uncle Bill, whom she considered her brother.

Services of Lavonna will be private for the family. Interment will be at Elliston Cemetery. The family suggests that memorial contribution for Lavonna be directed to Trinity United Church of Christ, 17955 W. 3rd Street, Elliston, Ohio, 43432 or Hospice of NW Ohio, 30000 E. River Road, Perrysburg, Ohio, 43551. The family has entrusted arrangements to the Robinson-Walker Funeral Home & Crematory, 501 West Street, Genoa, Ohio, 43430.

## Memorial Thank You

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

Women's Fellowship, Don & Bonnie Weaver, Melvin & Norma Reif, Eloise Hellwig, Ray & Ann David, Lauren & Faye Milbrodt, Doug & Karen Lick, Donna Schell, Fay Bolander, Jackie Pelton, Mike & Ann Diekman, Dwayne & Eva Hoeft Family, Lee David

## THANK YOU

“Glen & I would like to thank everyone for all the lovely anniversary cards. It was very thoughtful of everyone. It’s been a long month for us, but things are going better.”

~Vera Sager

“Thank you so much for your recent contribution to the Genoa Area Community Food Pantry. We are so grateful for the generous donation. 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

“Thank you so much for your generous gift to our center. Our summer lunch is providing approximately 4,000 meals per week across the county.”

~Ottawa County Family Advocacy

### From the first Trinity Tidings—July 1930

#### Cornerstone Laying Services

For the benefit of those who could not be with us June 29th and for the sake of record, we give a report of this service.

The speakers were Lawrence Rupr, Earnest Freimark, and Rev. Wm. Kuhlmen. They all gave an interesting and fitting talk. The Northwest Ohio Brotherhood Band gave a concert that was enjoyed by all.

When the old corner stone box was uncovered we found that the moisture had gotten into the box and some of the papers were partly destroyed by some of it could be read yet. The money found in the box was one half dollar, a quarter, a dime, two nickels, two one-cent pieces, and three-cent pieces. The dates on the coins ranged from 1858 to 1867. This money was lying on a “Friedensbete” in the shape of a cross and where the money was lying the paper was preserved, as white and strong as the day it was placed there but very little of the paper was legible. The old “Gesangbonchl”, was ready to fall apart but it was all there. Another book evidently a Bible fell to pieces when the box was opened. The other papers that would have been most interesting and valuable were not legible.

We then placed in the new cornerstone, the coins that we found in the old, adding to it some 1929 money, a copy of the constitution and bylaws of our church, a copy of our Membership List, the June issue of the “Trinity Tidings”, a record of the early history of the church, two pictures of the old church and a Bible. The offering received was approximately \$250.00 which was even appreciated and will go into the building treasury.

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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