



Trinity Tidings

Trinity United Church of Christ
17955 West 3rd Street, Elliston, OH 43432
www.trinityelliston.org
tucc1862@gmail.com
419-862-3417

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News From Pastor Kyle

Merry Christmas!

It may seem like a simple two word greeting during another Holiday season, but the two words spoken together can make a world of difference in the lives of those who hear the words.

“Merry” brings the greetings with a lively, festive atmosphere of rejoicing. Something about “Merry” (pun intended) seems to genuinely bring a spirit of excitement and joyfulness, or at least it should.

“Christmas” is an expression of surprise, a word announcing the surprise of the newborn Christ-child in our world.

I know that there has been plenty of banter over the years of whether it is politically correct, or not, to say Merry Christmas, but as Christians, it is OUR joyful announcement of the Messiah coming into our world and offering peace, hope and love to all.

It is important for us as believers to proclaim the same Good News that the angels announced over 2,000 years ago. It’s a message of peace on earth and goodwill to all.

Celebrate the many wonderful aspects of Christmas this season! Worship the Christ-child in song, read through the story of His birth with your family, and find reason to be full of true Christmas joy!

May Christ dwell forever!

~Merry Christmas – Pastor Kyle & family

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of Trinity UCC will be on Sunday January 8th, 2017 at 10:30 am with a potluck lunch to follow.



\$5 offerings

During the month of December, we will be collecting to raise money for Cherry Street Missions.

Trinity's \$5 offerings have blessed many lives and missions' projects over the years. Let us continue to be generous in our support.

In November, the \$5 offerings collected were \$991.00 for the Church Camp.

Copies

If you would like color copies made, you don't need to travel all the way to the store anymore! With the new copier we have, we can print very nice color copies for you! We will charge \$0.50 per color copy, which is less than you would spend at the store, and \$0.05 per black & white copy. Just stop during office hours and we will help you out.

Table and Chair Sign-Out

Just a reminder, with parties and outside family gathering season upon us, that 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.

Church Council Minutes

The Trinity United Church of Christ, Elliston Church Council met on October 10th, 2016 at 7:00 pm. Amy Mathews, President called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. and Pastor Kyle opened with prayer. Those in attendance were as follows: President – Amy Mathews, Vice President – Ed Gahler, Recording Secretary – Desirae McCloskey, Financial Secretary, Nyla Denman, Elders - Connie Gahler, Trustees – Doug Avery, Marty Hoeft, Steve Turnow and Dale Bodnar, Deacons – Dwayne Hoeft and Jim Buhro. Pastor Kyle Timmons and Church secretary Rhonda Mahoney was present as well.

Not Present - Elders – Ken Gahler

Reports: Recording Secretary:

Meeting minutes from the council meeting on 9/16/2016 were read during the meeting. Motion to accept the minutes for the past meeting was made by Ed Gahler, 2nd by Dwayne Hoeft. MC.

Secretary Report:

- Quarterly distributions were made from the benevolence fund:
 - \$500 – Arc of Ottawa County
 - \$250 – Cherry Street Mission
 - \$250 – Family House

Financial Report:

- Financial information was reviewed for the prior month. Dale Bodnar moved to accept the financial report. Jim Buhro 2nd. MC.
- 2017 Budget needs to be worked on and presented in the November councils meeting. It will then be presented to the congregation afterwards.

Pastor Report:

- Gym floor has been re-waxed. Kitchen, bathroom and downstairs basement still needs finished. Thanks to Kyle for taking on this task!
- Pastor Kyle is still looking into outdoor signage for the church, which will replace the signs that are currently looking outdated. He is going to reach out to Zion to see if they are interested in getting new signs as well.
- Three weddings and one baptism were performed since the last meeting.

- One baptism currently scheduled for the following month.
- Ed Gahler/Pastor Kyle will be purchasing additional tables for the church, as some need to be replaced. Still in the works.
- Still waiting to hear back from stain glass window company for further timing and details - planning to come towards the end of November/December.
- Wanted to remind members of the following dates:
 - Antique roadshow rescheduled for November 13th

Committee Reports:

Worship – Currently working on the Sunday service (Pat Cannon) and the Wednesday (Analisa Turnow) service while Kyle is out. Anyone looking to assist would be greatly appreciated and should see Jane Gahler.

Zion has asked if we were still interested in having a joint Thanksgiving meal. We would be happy to host the meal on November 20th at 11 am, along with a food drive.

EFY –Still looking for teachers! PLEASE SIGN UP! For all of those interested in teaching either one Sunday or several Sunday. Please sign up outside the door.

Mission – Boo Festival on October 23rd at 4 pm.
Church & Ministry –

- Ed and Jane are moving forward on interviewing for the janitorial job based on their past experience, one is currently interested that will be interviewed.
- Note - All paid employee wage increases will always be in October, no matter when the employee has started, due to the approval of the wage increase and the completion of the next year's budget preparation.
- One year review was performed for Kyle (earlier than one year due to potential wage increases). Kyle's review was given and he received an Outstanding rating.
 - 1) Increase of 3%, which equates to \$1,200
 - 2) \$500 Visa gift-card was also given

- 3) The continuation of the \$150 a month gas card will continue as well.
- Rhonda review was given and she received an Outstanding rating.
 - 1) Approve \$1 an hour increase
 - 2) \$250 gift card was given
 - 3) The continuation of the \$100 a month gas card will continue as well.

Search Committee – November 8th will be the next (and last) meeting at 6:30, with a dinner for all and their spouse.

Youth Events – We want to have more events for the youth, therefore wanted to make everyone aware of the following events that are currently planned.

- October 23rd – 4 pm -8 pm – Boo Festival
- November 6th – 4 pm -8 pm – Youth Progressive Dinner

We will be asking for people to help and to volunteer your time to make these events memorable for our youth.

Trustees -

- Need to look into snow removal this upcoming winter season.
- The outside around the front of the church has been dug out and fixed (tree roots were getting clogged in the drainage). Therefore, now that the outside has been fixed, the basement wall/stairwell can now be fixed.
- Roof has been replaced at the parsonage due to the state of the roof and the current condition the roof was under.

Parsonage Committee - Appraisal has been done and the committee has determined an as-is asking price of \$100k. The current tenants have accepted the appraisal of \$100k. We will give Ed the authority to sign the purchase agreement. Therefore, council will now present to the congregation for their approval.

Church council will also give Ed Gahler permission to be the legal representative and have the authority to sign all paper work for the sale of the parsonage property.

Old Business:

- Reminder to council to contact Bob Jensen for annual maintenance of the front doors. Ed Gahler will follow up with Mr. Jensen for next steps, if any.

New Business:

- Congregational meeting has been set for December 4th. A outline of the congregation meeting will be presented at the November meeting.
- A discussion was held relative to the weekly payment a visiting pastor receives. After much discussion a motion was made by Marty Hoeft to raise the weekly payment from \$100 to \$150. 2nd by Nyla Denman. MC
- Marty Hoeft discussed the method of backup the church is currently using for the computer system (which is a manual process performed by Rhonda). Marty has looked into a backup system which would include anti-virus, backup system, and IT support for \$100 a month. Discussion was held and it was determined this added cost would be taken into consideration during the compilation of the 2017 budget.
- Church camp will be held from January 20-22, 2017. Full payment is due BEFORE our arrival. Due to the increase in interested families, the \$5 offering the next couple months will be important in order for the church to pay for the children of the church to attend.
- Marty Hoeft made a motion to utilize money within the memorial fund to purchase an outside life-size nativity scene for the church. Price is \$987 plus shipping. 2nd by Doug Avery. MC. There will also be information included within the bulletin for church members to purchase additional animals for the nativity scene.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm by Amy Mathews.
Respectfully submitted, Desirae McCloskey,
Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report (approved)**General Operating Fun**

Balance as of 10/1/16	\$18,595.88
Offerings/Income	\$11,303.40
Expenses	\$11,545.50
Balance as of 10/31/16	\$19,575.78

Congregational Meeting –

November 6th, 2016

A congregational meeting was held to obtain the approval of the congregation to proceed with selling of the parsonage. An as is asking price of \$100,000 was presented to the congregation for approval. Darrell Opfer made a motion to proceed with selling the parsonage at an asking price of \$100,000 “as is”, with a right of first refusal clause added to the agreement which would give the church the opportunity to purchase the parsonage back in case the current tenants would decide to sell the home in the future. A second was made by Janene Lattimore. All in favor were asked to say “I”, with the majority of the congregation doing so. Note there were no individuals who opposed the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Desirae McCloskey
Recording Secretary

Women's Fellowship

Trinity Women's Fellowship met on Thurs. Nov 10, 2016 at 1:00pm. Norma began with the opening prayer & some “Thankful Thoughts”. Ina then led us in a unison table blessing. There were eleven present.

Vi G. was hostess & she served a delicious pumpkin dessert with snacks and candy and had a beautiful Thanksgiving decorated table.

Eloise H. led the devotions & program on “Thanksgiving” & we shared thoughts in this season of caring, sharing, and giving.

Pres. Norma called the business meeting to order. She thanked Vi for the nice lunch & Eloise for the program. The minutes of the Oct. meeting

were read & approved as read. The treasurer's report was given, accepted & will be filed.

Correspondences - A thank you note was received from Tyler Hellwig for cards received. Suzanne B thanked everyone for the nice thoughts and messages.

Reservations were taken for the Advent Brunch & Program at S. John's Church, Rocky Ridge on Sat. Nov 26th. Meet here at church at 8:45 am to car-pool.

We decided to give toward the new outdoor nativity scene. Ina made a motion it be \$300, Jackie sec. MC

Sara then made a motion we give Christmas gifts to Cherry Street Mission (\$50), Salvation Army (\$50), and the Ottawa County Holiday Bureau (\$50), sec by Vi. MC

Prayer partners were revealed & new names drawn.

Evelyn S. gave the Sunshine reports. New chairman, Jackie P.

Remember the OH Food Pantry with extra giving at this time of year.

The Ecumenical Christmas Program will be at St. John's Lutheran Church, Williston on Thurs. Dec 1. We have yet to receive information on this.

Next month will be our Christmas potluck & gift exchange, bring Christmas readings to share, on Thurs. Dec 8th at 12:00 noon.

Meeting adjourned & Norma shared some readings.

~Suzanne Buhro, Secretary

WF Treasurer's Report

Balance on Hand as of Oct 1 st	\$527.15
Offering	\$12.00
Total Income & Balance	\$539.15
Total Expenses	\$100.00
Iso Impact “Haiti”	\$100.00
Balance on Hand Oct 30th	\$439.15
Savings Account	\$1,516.63

Community Markets

Thank you to all who have been turning in your receipts. We just received a check for \$37.53. Please continue to bring your receipts in and put them in the box on the table by the North Entrance (just outside PK office).

Thank You

“Thank you for your generous donations. We traveled to Haiti last week and we were able to help many families who suffered from hurricane Matthew. We gave out food, supplies, and livestock.”

~With Thanks! Amy Fletcher

“I would like to express my sincere thanks for the week long expression of thanks given to my family and I from the Church & Ministry Team and the congregation of the church. We are grateful for all your support and love.”

~Pastor Kyle & Family

“THANK YOU. I'd like to thank the Church & Ministry Team and the entire congregation for the week long thank yous, that you left mysteriously in my office. The love and support that TUCC family gives to myself and my family are amazing. Thank you very much!”

~Rhonda and family

“Thank you very much for your generous contribution to the Holiday Bureau. We are grateful for your interest and support. Thank you to the Men's Fellowship”.

~Ottawa County Holiday Bureau

“Thank you to all that helped to decorate the church for the holidays.”

Christian Sympathy

Douglas E. Avery

Douglas E. Avery, 79, of Elliston, passed away Sunday, November 6, 2016, at Hospice of Northwest Ohio, Perrysburg. He was born August 22, 1937, in Oakmont, PA the son of the late Mary (Spung) and Richard Avery.

He was a 1955 graduate of Oak Harbor High School and later served in the United States Naval Reserve. Doug worked as a metallurgist for Brush-Wellman in Elmore for 41 years retiring in 1999. He was the 1991 Commodore of the Cooley Canal Yacht Club. He was an avid hunter, boater and enjoyed riding his Harley. He was a season ticket holder for the Pittsburgh Steelers. Doug was a classic car enthusiast and had played in many softball leagues.

Doug is survived by his children, Vicki (John) Lorenzen of Martin, Douglas (Michele) Avery of Genoa, John (Michelle) Avery of Madison, TN, James (Deanna) Avery of Toledo, and Julie (Robert) Jeannotte of New Smyrna Beach, FL; 11 grandchildren, Kiel, Rachel, Veronica, Desirae, Nicole, Justin, Jimmy, Olivia, Christina, Anthony, and Ashley; 4 great-grandchildren; and sister, Frances (Phil) Bailey of Harrison, ID.

Funeral Services will be conducted by Pastor Kyle Timmons on Wednesday, November 9, 2016, at 11 a.m. in Trinity United Church of Christ, Elliston, OH. Visitation will be Tuesday, November 8, 2016, from 2-8 p.m., in the Robinson-Walker Funeral Home and Crematory, 501 West St., Genoa, OH. Memorial Contributions may be directed to Trinity United Church of Christ, 17955 W 3rd St., Elliston, OH, 43432. Condolences can be shared at walkerfuneralhomes.com

Memorial Thank You

We would like to extend our thanks to the following people that donated to the Doug Avery Memorial Fund.

Susie Wittman, Carol Cheatham, Richard & Nyla Denman, Dan & Connie Gahler, Ron & Elizabeth Ayotte, Evelyn Schimming, Lauren & Faye Milbrodt, Eloise Hellwig, Trinity Women's Fellowship, Danny & Kathy Appelhans, Viola Gahler, Blanche Batesole, Ken Gahler, Jackie Pelton, Don & Michelle Tabbert, Ina David, Melvin & Norma Reif, Don & Bonnie Weaver; Dwayne & Eva Hoeft; Myron & Sarah Zibble; Fay Bolander; Suzanne Buhro; Doug & Karen Lick; Patricia Avery

Trinity Youth News

Children's Choir at Trinity

Jackie Timmons has started a children's choir at Trinity. Children in preschool on up are encouraged to participate.

Kids' Choir – Children wishing to participate in the Kids' Choir are encouraged to practice with the group the 1st Sunday of each month at 9 am. CDs are available at the church office for families to play at home or in their vehicles for their children to learn the songs. Call Jackie Timmons at 419-898-2045 if you have any questions.

Branching Out (Preschool - 1st Grade) Branching Out (2nd - 5th Grade)

We are looking for a few teachers (men and women) to rotate teaching our Branching Out classes. Material and training will be available. Our children our vital to health of this congregation, both presently and in the future. Please prayerfully consider signing up to help Branching Out grow.

Several people have already stepped up to teach this fall, but we could still use 2 or 3 more individuals. This will allow teachers to attend worship the other three Sundays. If you are willing to teach, please let Pastor Kyle, Amy Mathews, or Ashley Zimmerman know as soon as possible.

Christmas Program

(December 10th 4:30pm - arrive at church at 4:00pm)

The youth will be hosting the Christmas program dinner. Program is at 4:30pm followed by dinner. Please make sure to make your reservations to Amy at 567-343-8072

Christmas Program Rehearsals

Will be on Tuesday's evenings starting at 6:30pm. The last rehearsal before the show will be Tuesday December 6th at 6:30pm.

We will be having optional Sunday practices for our Christmas program, Jesus Means Christmas to me, immediately after church!

We are also looking for the following items:

- Musical instruments (play ones, not real ones)
- Fake presents (boxes that are wrapped!)
- Bells



Christmas Poinsettia

Each year for Christmas Eve, the church is decorated with Poinsettias. If you wish to help beautify our sanctuary, please complete the form below. You will be allowed to take them after the Christmas Eve Service.

_____ In Memory of _____

_____ In Memory of _____

_____ In Honor of _____

_____ In Honor of _____

A Donation of \$7.00 each can be made by placing this slip and money in the offering plate or lock box.
Due by December 4th 2016.

Please indicate if you would like **RED** or **WHITE**.

Your Name: _____



Advent & Christmas Eve Schedule

November 27th – 1st Sunday of Advent –
Special Music by Jennifer Laughlin

December 4th – 2nd Sunday of Advent –
Kids Choir & Special Music by Genoa's
Fellowship of Christian Athletes Choir

December 11th – 3rd Sunday of Advent –
Special Music by Jacquelyn Timmons &
by Rebecca Timmons

December 18th – 4th Sunday of Advent –
Special Music

December 24th – Christmas Eve
4 pm: Special Music
7:30 pm: Candlelight Service –
Special Music

December 25th – Christmas Worship @ 9:30 am

Who doesn't love HoneyBaked

Ham? Looking for a special gift for a loved one this Christmas season? Looking to find that tasteful ham, turkey breast, side dish or dessert?

Look no further than our Trinity UCC Mission Fundraiser.

Buy a gift card of your amount and use it to make purchases online or at a local HoneyBaked Ham store (nearest one is in Toledo) while 20% of your purchase goes to the Trinity Mission Fund.

Check out our Trinity UCC Elliston facebook page or see Pastor Kyle or Rhonda in the church office if you need help purchasing a gift card.

Contingent Fund

As we are ending the year, we are still running a negative balance of -\$4640.00 from the elevator repair. If you are looking for a place to make a donation yet this year, please consider our Contingent Fund.

Greeters

<u>December</u>		
4 th	North	Viola Gahler
	South	Ken Gahler
11 th	North	Ed Gahler
	South	Jane Gahler
18 th	North	Connie Gahler
	South	Dan Gahler
25 th	North	Dwayne Hoeft
	South	Eva Hoeft
<u>January 2017</u>		
8 th	North	Kelsey Gahler
	South	Jay Hellwig
15 th	North	Kristi Hoeft
	South	Marty Hoeft
22 nd		Ron Geisler
29 th	North	Jared Lattimore
	South	Janene Lattimore
<u>February 2017</u>		
5 th	North	Karen Lick
	South	Doug Lick
12 th	North	Amy Mathews
	South	Dan Mathews
19 th	North	Matt Perry
	South	Brianne Perry
26 th	North	Melvin Reif
	South	Norma Reif

Christian Education

Please look through some of the ideas below and see if there are any classes you are interested in attending. Also, please prayerfully consider if you could take turns rotating (hopefully once a month) to teach Branching Out.

Re-Kindle (Mid-Week Service) - Everyone is invited to join us at 7 pm on Wednesdays for a midweek service with song, Scripture, and discussion.

Pastor's Bible Study/Sunday School -

We meet in the Sunday School room across from the church office to discuss each week's sermon and to dig a little deeper into the message. All ages are welcome to attend. Class will meet after church (around 11 am) and will last about 40 minutes. We will also post a schedule outside of the classroom for Sundays that we will not meet (special Holidays, etc).

Tailgating at Trinity

(Men's Monday Night Group)

Men (18 & older), are invited to join us for food, faith, fellowship, and football.

Each Monday, we'll meet at 7:30 and tailgate with some traditional tailgating food, have a short Bible Study and discussion, and then watch the Monday Night Football game of the week for those who wish to watch the game.

Women's Bible Study & Fellowship – Bunco & a Verse resumes Sunday, December 4th @ 6:30 pm. All women are invited to join us.

Community Events

The Ecumenical Christmas Program will be at St. John's Lutheran Church, Williston on Thurs. Dec 1. There is a sign-up on the bulletin board if you would like to go. Bring either a dessert or a salad to the event also.

It's the most wonderful time of the year!

Thank you to everyone that has donated and help to purchase pieces for our life-sized nativity. We have all the pieces purchased! There is still a balance of around \$600.00, if you would like to help with offsetting the installation/lighting of the project, please let the office know.

We would like to thank the following people for their purchases:

Angel	Tom & Kathy Priesman In honor of our grandchildren
"Peace on Earth" Father/Son Shepard Wiseman Set	Kyle & Jackie Timmons Women's Fellowship Doug & Michelle Avery Desirae & Kent McCloskey Dick & Nyla Denman
"Oh Holy Night"	Jackie Pelton In Memory of Bob Pelton
Ox	Sarah & Myron Zibbel In Memory of Paul & Hazel Schepflin & Fred & Sylvia Zibbel

Community Events (fliers on bulletin board)

The 2016 Drive Through Nativity on Saturday Dec 3 and Dec 4 from 5:30-7:30pm in the parking lot of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (500 S. Brentwood Ave, Gibsonburg) There will be 9 stations where the Christmas story is told through song and scripture. You will be given a CD to listen to as you travel the parking lot in the comfort of your vehicle.

St. John's UCC of Elmore invites you to A Night in Bethlehem on Saturday, December 10th from 6-8:30pm. Journey back to the time of Jesus' birth. This is a free event.

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Mission

Promote Faith, Family, and Fellowship through the Father,
Son, & Holy Spirit!

Check out our website at:

www.trinityelliston.org

Message from the Office

By Rhonda Mahaney

*Joy Hope Love
Smile Peace Warmth
Happiness Goodness*

*Are my heartfelt wishes for
you and your families!
Merry Christmas.*

"ecardcorner.com"

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