



# Tidings

VOLUME 98, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2024

## Traveling Light: Returning to the Presence of God this Advent



*Travel Light*

It's hard to believe we are already entering Advent. Advent is a season of anticipation, a time when we prepare our hearts to celebrate the arrival of Jesus Christ at Christmas. But it's also a season of return - a return to God's presence. This year, we spent much of the fall studying Exile and building up to the idea of the people of God being called to return to the presence, purpose, promise, and providence of God. So this Advent, we take a spiritual journey back to the presence of God much like the Jewish exiles returned from Babylon to their homeland.

**Kids Sunday School,**  
**7th/8th Grade**  
**Confirmation Class,**  
**HIGH SCHOOL Class,**  
**Adult Class all @**  
**9:00 am each week**

**Sunday Worship &**  
**Branching Out**  
**Kids Church @**  
**10:00 am each week**

### Upcoming Events:

Every Tuesday  
Coffee Fellowship  
@ 8:00 am  
Dartball (see schedule)  
@ 7:00 pm

Monday Nights  
November 25th,  
December 2nd, 9th, 16th  
Children's Christmas  
Program Rehearsal  
@ 6:00 pm

December 8th  
Youth Christmas Party  
@ 9:00 am (MS/HS)

December 15th  
Christmas Caroling  
@ 4:00 pm

December 22nd  
Children's Christmas  
Program  
@ 10:00 am

December 24th  
Christmas Eve Music  
@ 6:30 pm  
Christmas Eve Service  
@ 7:00 pm

This Advent, our sermon series *Traveling Light* will explore how the promise of "return" found in Scripture speaks directly to us today.

The Jewish exile was a time of deep longing for God's presence and a yearning for restoration. When God called His people back to their homeland, it wasn't just a physical return; it was a spiritual invitation to leave behind the heaviness of exile - both their sins and their sorrows—and come back to Him. In the same way, Jesus Christ came into the world to call us out of the darkness of sin and into the light of His grace.

But the journey back to God is not always easy. Like the exiles of old, we often carry burdens that weigh us down—material desires, distractions, bitterness, pain from the past, or even our need to control. These burdens can make it difficult to hear Jesus' call to return and to embrace the life of hope, peace, love, and joy He offers.

This Advent, we invite you to travel light. Through the series *Traveling Light*, we'll reflect on how Jesus calls us to let go of the things that hinder us from drawing near to Him. As we prepare to celebrate the miracle of His birth, let us hear His invitation to come back to God and find rest for our souls.

*The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."*

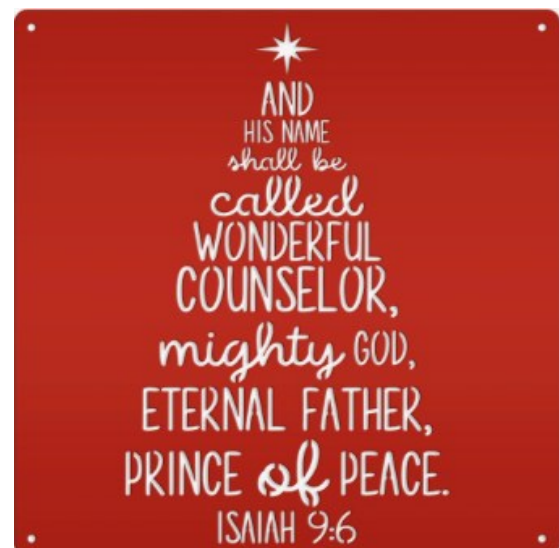
*Deuteronomy 31:8*

Advent is a time of hope—a hope grounded in the promises of God fulfilled through Jesus Christ. Just as the exiles discovered that God's faithfulness was greater than their fears, we can trust that His grace will carry us on the journey home. Let's travel together, unburdened, toward the light of Christmas.

May this season be one of letting go, drawing near, and rediscovering the joy of walking in step with the Savior.

We look forward to traveling with you!

*Pastor Ryan Shields*



## Council Minutes: October 2024



*Council regularly  
meets at the  
Church monthly  
on the  
2nd Monday  
at 7:00 pm  
in the Coffee  
Room next to  
the Kitchen*

The Trinity United Church of Christ, Elliston Church Council met on Monday, October 14 at 7:01 pm. Eric Gahler, President, called the meeting to order. Pastor Ryan opened with prayer. Those in attendance were as follows: Pastor Ryan Shields, Mary Muntz, Eric Gahler, Veronica McMonigle, Susie Shaffer, Connie Gahler, Blake Traver, Brad Jess, Marty Hoeft, Doug Avery

### Reports:

#### Recording Secretary

Blake motioned to correct spelling of Ben Sutter and Susie Shaffer's names and approve the September minutes. Connie 2<sup>nd</sup>. MC.

#### Administrative Assistant and Financial

Reports were reviewed.

Investment gain of \$5,009.01 was reported for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2024

Motion to accept reports and pay bills made by first Blake, second by Susie, MC

#### Pastoral

Fall ministries continue.

Adult Leaders/Chaperones needed for High School activities

#### Christian Ed/EFY

Fall Fest 10/27

Christmas Program 12/22

### General Operating Fund

*(Council approved 11/11/24)*

|                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Beginning Balance 10/01/2024 | \$56,415.40  |
| CD Investment                | \$193.53     |
| Offering/Income              | \$16,298.89  |
| Expenses                     | \$13,001.04  |
| Transfers                    | (\$3,724.44) |
| Balance 10/30/2024           | \$56,182.34  |

#### Missions

Mission Spotlight for October is support for Ben & Mandi Wood, CRU Missionaries

Will have a coat/hat/glove drive in November

December will focus on Angel Tree & families

#### Small Groups

Trinity Social Group – Susie – Going well! 10/12 will be at Mockingbird

Women's Book Club – Veronica – Going well! Next meeting November 18. Book will be The Stranger in the Lifeboat by Mitch Albom.

#### Trustees

Will start basement boiler tonight

#### Old Business

2025 Slate of Officers – Ben & Eric will make some calls

#### New Business

Annual Congregational Meeting set for January 12, 2025

Opfer Estate provided paperwork to be signed regarding reading of Darrell's will.

Next meeting November 11 at 7pm.  
Eric motioned to adjourn. Veronica 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm by Eric.  
Respectfully submitted by Mary Muntz,  
Administrative Assistant/Treasurer





**2025 Open Council Seats**

Vice President

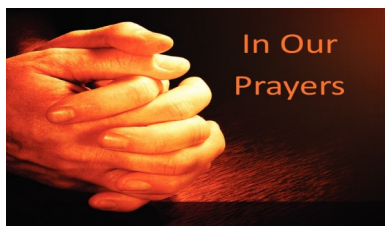
Recording Secretary

Contact Ben Sutter  
or a Council Member  
for more information

# Church COUNCIL

Church Council is recruiting for 2025 in the positions of: Recording Secretary and Vice President.

If you are not familiar with these duties, The Recording Secretary keeps notes on all business meetings, and the Vice President assists in many capacities while preparing to guide the agenda as President the following term. Our new Council year will begin in January 2025, please prayerfully consider if this is going to be your year to step up and serve as a part of the leadership team here at Trinity.



In Our  
Prayers

**Shane Baumert & Family** as they grieve the loss of Shane's cousin, Cassie Ahlgrim, who passed away last week. The family is celebrating that her organs were donated and saved the lives of three people.

**Those at Genoa Care Center:**

Jackie Pelton

Norma Reif (Assisted Living)

**Those with long-term health concerns:**

Don Weaver (at home)

Don Corbin (recovering from hip replacement)

Joel Marquart (at Riverview)

Joel Reeder (cancer treatment)

Tim Burns (recovering from a stroke)

Dan Luebke

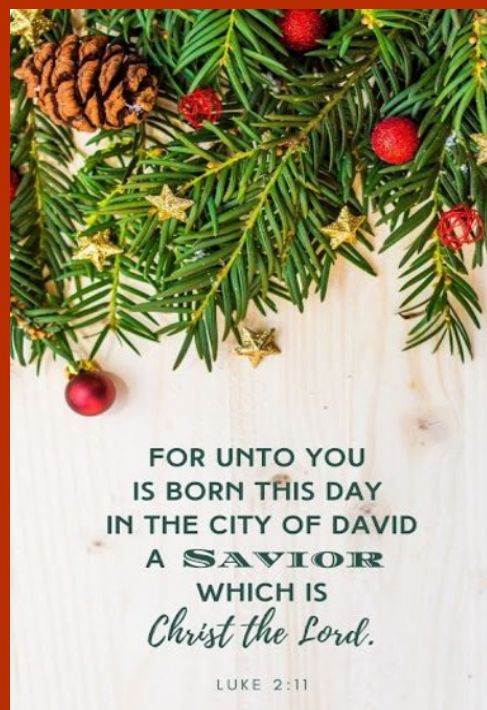
Doug Kalick

Kim Danes (Cancer)

Phil Vanderhorst (Cancer &amp; Heart issues)

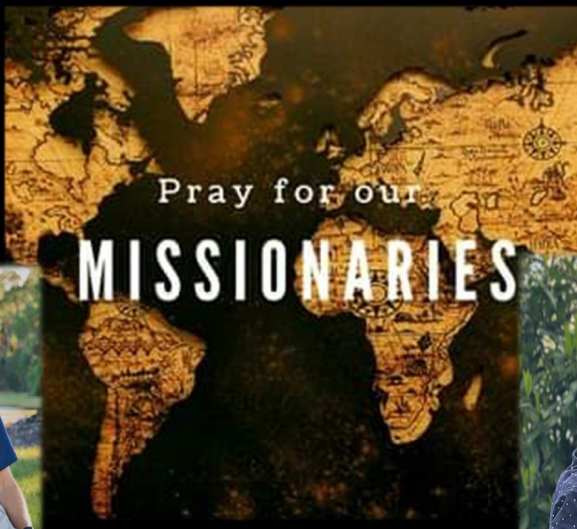
Henry Noble (leukemia)

Steve Welling (ALS)



**Ben & Mandi Wood**  
Elliana, Jonathan & Noah

Serving in Florida  
as trainers for 



**Jay & Zina Herman**  
Ari & Milo

Serving in Slovenia  
through 





7:00 pm

## Dartball 2024

November 19<sup>th</sup> @ home vs. Millbury St. Peter UCC  
November 26<sup>th</sup> @ Oak Harbor St. Paul UCC  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> @ home vs. Rocky Ridge  
December 10<sup>th</sup> @ home vs. Williston St. John Lutheran  
January 7<sup>th</sup> @ Elliston Zion Methodist  
January 14<sup>th</sup> @ Elmore St. Paul Methodist  
January 21<sup>st</sup> @ home vs. Millbury St. Paul Methodist

Tuesday  
Nights



Branching Out

Children's Christmas Program  
Rehearsal

6:00 pm

November 25<sup>th</sup>

December 2<sup>nd</sup>

December 9<sup>th</sup>

December 16<sup>th</sup>

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

FOOD x FELLOWSHIP x FAITH

December 8th @ 7:30 am

YOUTH GROUP

## CHRISTMAS

PARTY

December 8

@ 9:00 AM

6:30-9:00 AM

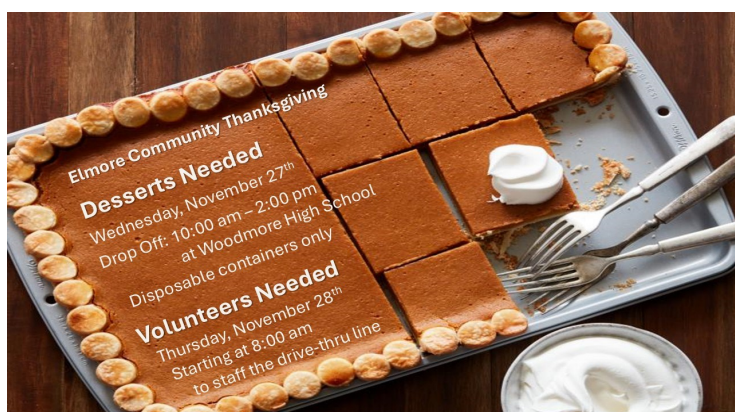
Sunday School  
&  
Branching Out  
will not meet

December 29<sup>th</sup>

or

January 5<sup>th</sup>

We will resume meeting  
January 12<sup>th</sup>



**trinity**

SOCIAL GROUP

Sunday, December 8

6:30 pm

@ The Lights Before Christmas

(Toledo Zoo)

Casual, Kid Free Connection Group Meeting Monthly

Annual Reports Due by  
January 5, 2024



Annual Congregational

## MEETING

Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>

after the service





## A Christmas Carol Service

**December 5, 2024**

Join us for a

**Women's Ecumenical Service**

**at Genoa Christian Church**

**5:45 p.m. Registration**

**6:00 p.m. Service**

**Followed by a Soup & Salad Buffet**

**Please register the number of ladies attending by**

**November 30th. Leave a message at 419-855-3464 or  
email [genoachristian2023@gmail.com](mailto:genoachristian2023@gmail.com).**

**We will receive an offering. Proceeds will go to the  
Genoa Area Community Food Pantry**

### Trinity Reminders and Answers to How Do I... and What's That For...Questions

#### Drop Box Available

Need to leave a note or drop off offering when no one is in the office? There is a locked drop box available for you to use in the connecting unit hallway next to the water fountain (outside the coat room). The box is checked at least once each week.

#### Got An Item To Submit For The Next Newsletter?

Do you have good news or thank you's to share?

Drop a note off or email them to the church office by the 20th of each month!

#### First Aid Equipment & Medical Supplies

There is first aid equipment and supplies in the basement kitchen, fellowship hall pantry and church office for your use. There is also an AED in the connecting hallway near the restrooms.

We have been blessed with the donation of a few wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, slings, bandages, ice packs, etc. that would help in a medical situation in the building or for someone in immediate need. These are located in the basement kitchen for your use as needed.

#### Use of the Church Hall or Basement

The church calendar of events is hanging on the wall outside the main office door. You can also view scheduled events on the church website calendar ([www.trinityelliston.org](http://www.trinityelliston.org)). If you would like to reserve the hall or basement take a form from the pouch under the calendar outside the main office, complete it and return it to the office to be scheduled. You are now required to fill out a form for any event that you would like to have in the church (including any rollover events from year to year for holiday parties). Please do not just write on the calendar - we ask you complete the form first. Once the form is reviewed we will add it to the calendar. If you have any questions, please contact Mary in the office.

#### Trinity Logo Wear

You can now order items directly from [bit.ly/trinityunitedchurchofchrist](http://bit.ly/trinityunitedchurchofchrist). If the item you would like is not listed simply call R&R Identification at 419-355-8206 or visit their shop at 160 S OH 590 Fremont, OH 43420 and tell them what you would like with the Trinity Elliston logo on it and they will be happy to make it to your specifications.

#### Table & Chair Sign Out

Sign-out sheet for tables and chairs is located in the closet across from the main office (on the back of the door). Contact the office to make sure you are on the list for the date you would like to use the tables and chairs. The only tables that are to leave the property are the older wooden style tables. The only chairs that are to leave the property are the wooden chairs. Both tables and chairs that may be taken out are located in the shed by the kitchen entry.



Our December Mission Spotlight will go toward our Angel Tree family. Look for the Angel Tree in the North Lobby area after Thanksgiving. To contribute toward our Angel Tree, simply write "Mission Spotlight" on your check or envelope or specify "Mission Spotlight" if giving online.

## What is the Contingent Fund?

Do you know what the Contingent Fund is used for? This is the fund that ALL building and maintenance items are paid out of. So when something breaks or requires maintenance, we pay for it out of this fund. Examples of other items that are paid out of the Contingent Fund include:

- Maintenance work on the boilers
- Batteries
- Light bulbs and new lights
- Paint
- Parts to fix & repair things in the church
- Carpet Cleaning/Floor Waxing
- Snow Removal & Lawn Care

## How Do I Give to the Church and Its Ministries

There are a number of different ways to give to your church, as listed below:

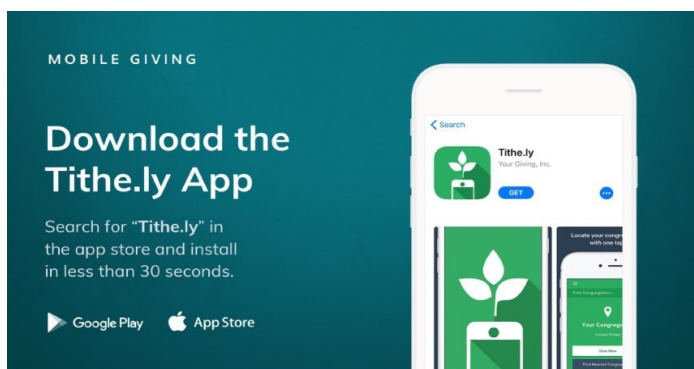
- Give to the church via Sunday offering, US Mail, or drop off (A wooden collection box is located on the wall outside the lower coat room for your convenience throughout the week.)

Giving to your local church using [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) is super easy!

- **Online** - A link is provided on our Church Website at [www.trinityelliston.org](http://www.trinityelliston.org). Click on the link and it will take you to our secure [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) page to set up your one time or recurring contribution.

You may also go to search the internet for [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly)/ Give and look up our church, then fill in the giving form.

- **Give in App** - Download the [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) App from the [App Store](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/tithe-ly/id1441111111) (iPhone) or [Google Play Store](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.tithe.ly) (Android). Once you've downloaded the app, create an account or log in, locate our church and tap "Give Now" to complete your contribution.

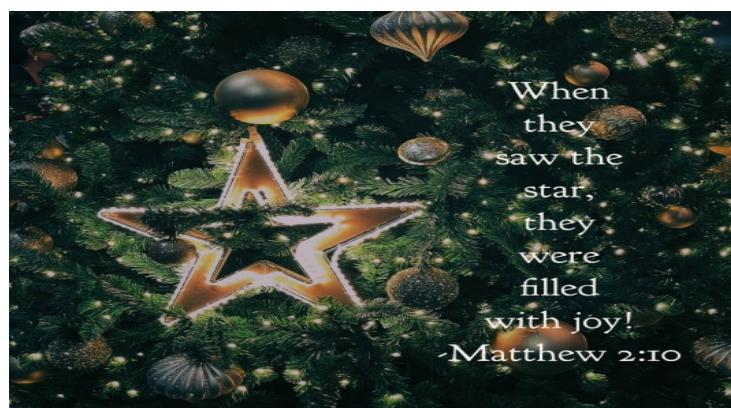


**2025 Offering Envelope Booklets are available in the elevator room**

(when sitting in the pews this is the room on the left side of the stage)

If you do not have a numbered booklet of envelopes but would like one, please let the church office know and we will be happy to put one together for you.

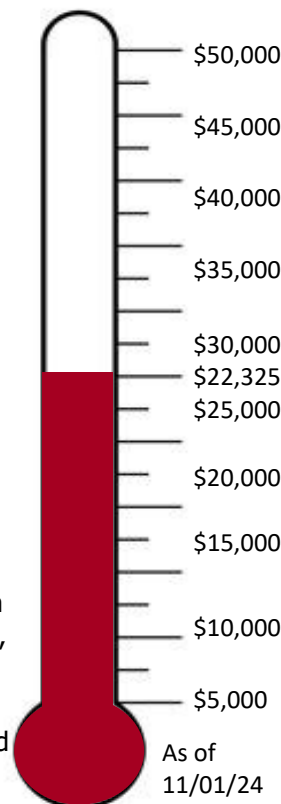
If you have one but do not need them because you are giving online, just leave them on the table and let the office know and we will repurpose them. Thank you for faithfully supporting the ministries of Trinity through your prayers & giving!



## Firm Foundation Campaign

- \$50,000 starting funds for preservation and repair of Sanctuary Wing and Steeple (doors in the wings, brick work, water proofing, eavestroughs, flashing, etc)
- Waterproofing, Cleaning, Organizing & Supplying Basement and Kitchen for ministry
- Continuing to grow our small groups ministry meeting monthly to improve church community and Connection. Training and equipping leaders to see these through.

All Basement repairs are completed.





# Trinity UCC

## DECEMBER 2024

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday  |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Advent Sunday</b><br>9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Adult CC<br>10:00 am Worship w/ Communion & Kids Church<br>Trustee: Doug Avery<br>Kerian Sager (B)   | <b>2</b><br>6:00 pm Children's Christmas Program Practice  | <b>3</b><br>8:00 am Coffee Fellowship<br>7:00 pm Dartball<br>Eliza Sutter (B)                           | <b>4</b><br>Dorothy Clarke (B)<br>Doug & Tammy Asher (A)   | <b>5</b><br>Lee & Tracey David (A)                    | <b>6</b>   | <b>7</b><br>Anna Markley (B)  |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Sunday</b><br>7:30 am Men's Breakfast<br>9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Adult CC<br>10:00 am Worship & Kids Church<br>Hall: Wasserman<br>Trustee: Marty Hoeft   | <b>9</b><br>6:00 pm Children's Christmas Program Practice<br>7:00 pm Church Council  | <b>10</b><br>8:00 am Coffee Fellowship<br>7:00 pm Dartball<br>Claire McMonigle                          | <b>11</b><br>Jackie Pelton (B)   | <b>12</b><br>Jeffrey Bast (B)<br>Ray & Ann David (A)  | <b>13</b><br>Homeschool Co-Op<br>Tiffany Hernandez (B) | <b>14</b><br>Hall/Kitchen: Wetzel<br>Dale Bodnar (B)                    |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Sunday</b><br>9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Adult CC<br>10:00 am Worship & Kids Church<br>4:00 pm Caroling / Pizza<br>Trustee: Brandon Kincaid<br>Fay Bolander (B)<br>Rhonda Mahaney (B)<br>Paul & Beth Brewster (A) | <b>16</b><br>6:00 pm Children's Christmas Program Practice<br>Lindsay Hansen-Jones (B)<br>Rayna Perry (B)<br>Trent & Julie Rothert (A) | <b>17</b><br>8:00 am Coffee Fellowship<br>7:00 pm Dartball<br>Ann Schimming (B)<br>Gary Tabbert (B)     | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b><br>Jim Laughlin (B)<br>Heston Lattimore (B) | <b>20</b><br>Tidings Info Due                          | <b>21</b><br>Hall: Hoeft<br>Carleigh Tabbert (B)<br>Michael Tabbert (B) |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> Advent Sunday</b><br>9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Adult CC<br>10:00 am Worship w/ Children's Christmas Program (cookies in hall following)<br>Trustee: Doug Avery<br>Mike & Stephanie Tabbert (A)                          | <b>23</b><br>Sara Zibbel (B)   | <b>24</b><br><b>6:30 pm</b><br><b>Christmas Music</b><br><b>7:00 pm</b><br><b>Christmas Eve Service</b> | <b>Christmas 25</b><br>Mike Diekman (B)<br>Ron Ayotte (B)  | <b>26</b><br>Robin Hansen (B)<br>Teddy Suffer (B)     | <b>27</b><br>Sadie Traver (B)                          | <b>28</b><br>Kristie Gallagher (B)                                      |
| <b>29</b><br>10:00 am Worship<br>Trustee: Marty Hoeft<br>Caleb Jones (B)  | <b>30</b><br>Donald Tabbert (B)  | <b>31</b><br>8:00 am Coffee Fellowship<br>Hall: Church People   | Should your birthday or anniversary not be listed, please contact the church office with the date of your special day so that we may update our records. |   |  |   |
| (B) = Birthday (A) = Anniversary  |  |   |  |   |  |   |

# Christmas Eve

Family Worship and Candlelight Service



6:30 PM Special Christmas Music

7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service



Trinity Elliston • 17955 W 3rd Street • Elliston, OH 43432  
[www.trinityelliston.org](http://www.trinityelliston.org)



**trinity**  
united church of Christ

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Website: [trinityelliston.org](http://trinityelliston.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/TUCCElliston](https://facebook.com/TUCCElliston)  
Instagram: [trinityellistonucc](https://trinityellistonucc)  
YouTube: [TrinityElliston](https://TrinityElliston)  
Livestream: [trinityelliston.org/livestream](https://trinityelliston.org/livestream)

Pastor: Ryan Shields  
Pastor's Email: [ryandshields@outlook.com](mailto:ryandshields@outlook.com)

Children's Ministry Director: Janene Lattimore  
Janene's Email: [janenelattimore11@gmail.com](mailto:janenelattimore11@gmail.com)