



Tidings

VOLUME 99, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2025

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:

THE BIBLE RECAP

Starting the first Sunday of Lent (March 9th) through June 9th we will challenge the church together to read the entire New Testament following the Bible Recap plan. Paper copies of the reading list will be made available or for deeper study you can order the Bible Recap study materials. Watch out for more information soon from Pastor Ryan.



We're Going Old School

"Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls."
— Jeremiah 6:16

Recently I found myself meditating on the identity of our church. We have been described as a church living between two identities. In many ways we have embraced many of the modern elements of Christian worship, but there are also trappings of the past that we just can't bring ourselves to let go. We are the most modern traditional church in the area! And that meditation inspired me to take a look at some of the traditions we have let go, what value they had, and why it's okay to revisit them from time to time, and why it's also okay to put them away as we go forward.

As we step into February, I invite you to join us on a journey through time with our new sermon series, **"Old School."** In this series, we will rediscover the beauty, meaning, and importance of the rich traditions that have shaped Christian worship for generations.

In our fast-moving world, it's easy to overlook the depth and wisdom found in the classic hymns, the structure of liturgy, the creeds that have anchored our faith, and even the instruments that have led generations in praise and brought us into today. But these traditions hold more than just nostalgia—they carry profound theological truths, uniting us with believers across centuries and around the world.

Throughout this series, we will explore:

Classic Hymns – Why do certain songs stand the test of time and inspire generation after generation? What do these songs teach us about God's character?

The Liturgy & Creeds – How do these time-honored words shape our faith and remind us of God's promises?

The Common Lectionary – How does following a shared calendar of Scripture readings and teachings help us stay grounded in God's Word

Instruments of Worship – From organs and pianos to guitars and drums, how have musical styles changed, and what can we learn from them about how people praise God?

Jeremiah 6:16 reminds us that sometimes, the best way forward is to look back—back to the faithful ways that have led countless believers before us. Whether these traditions are deeply familiar to you or completely new, we pray this series will deepen your appreciation for the "old school" elements of worship and how they continue to shape our walk with Christ today.

Join us each Sunday as we take a step back—not just to reminisce, but to reconnect with the timeless practices that still strengthen and inspire our faith.

See you in worship!

Pastor Ryan Shields



Council Minutes: December 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, December 9 at 7:06pm. Eric Gahler, President, called the meeting to order. Pastor Ryan Shields opened with prayer. Those in attendance were as follows: Pastor Ryan, Mary Muntz, Eric Gahler, Veronica McMonigle, Doug Avery, Kim Traver, Blake Traver, Ben Sutter, Marty Hoeft, Connie Gahler, Brittany Wittman, Susie Shaffer and Brad Jess via phone

Recording Secretary Report:

Marty motioned to approve the minutes. Kim 2nd. MC.

Administrative Assistant + Financial Report:

Reports were reviewed.

Kim motioned to accept reports + pay bills, 2nd by Susie, MC.

Pastoral Report:

Church alive with activity heading into Christmas.

Christmas caroling next week 12/15

Working with Baylee Malik or upcoming youth events

Christmas Eve service on 12/24 at 7pm with pre-service music beginning at 6:30pm

Christian Ed/EFY Report:

Working on the Christmas program which will be during service 12/22

Missions Report:

Angel Tree -3 students through the Holiday Bureau. All items due Friday, December 13

Gave all coats/gloves/scarves to Toledo Gospel since they take used. Gave a monetary donation to Susie's Coats.

Upcoming January serving opportunities:

Genoa Food Pantry – 1/16 for Packing. 1/18 for serving.

Vision Kitchen – 1/10

Small Group Updates Report:

Wittman Home Group - Brittany – Going well! Next meeting January 31. Starting new study

Women's Book Club – Veronica – Next meeting January 9. Book will be Redeeming Love by Francine Rivers

Trinity Social Club – Susie – Went to zoo lights on January 8. Great turnout with 14 people in attendance. January will be bowling. Date TBD.

Trustees Report:

Furnace issues in the sanctuary.

Marty proposed:

Replacing the thermostat – getting a quote

Installing a gas line + exhaust on the A/C unit in the sanctuary which as a heat component to work as a backup/secondary – getting a quote

Damschroder gave a roofing quote for:

\$2600 to clear the pine needles – Trustees will handle on their own

\$2500 to tighten screws – going to talk to other contacts about handling

Lawn mower will be serviced by Doug

Old Business

2025 Slate of officers. New positions filled:

VP – TBD, Recording Secretary – Sean Hoeft, Elder – Laura Clement,

Deacon – Todd Witt, Trustees – Ryan Chamberlain + Keaston Reif

New Business

90 Day CD matures 12/9/24 – Blake motioned to roll the CD over. Marty 2nd. MC

2025 Budget with proposed salaries for staff. Discussed evaluations done by Ben + Eric for Janene, Mary, James + Pastor Ryan. Kim motioned to approve proposed salaries. Veronica 2nd. MC.

Annual Congregational Meeting 1/12/24

Next meeting January, Monday 13 at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48pm by Eric.

Respectfully submitted by Brittany Wittman, Recording Secretary.

General Operating Fund (Council approved 01/13/25)

Beginning Balance 12/01/2024	\$60,608.03
CD Investment	\$389.26
Offering/Income	\$18,960.17
Expenses	\$10,917.84
Transfers	(\$5,847.22)
Balance 12/31/2024	\$63,192.40

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

On behalf of everyone at Susie's Coats for Kids, I want to express my



Heartfelt gratitude for your generous financial donation. Your support comes at a critical time, as the need in our community is greater than ever, and maintaining enough inventory to meet the demand has been a significant challenge.

With your thoughtful contribution and careful shopping, we will be able to purchase new coats, hats, gloves and socks for the children who need them most. We are also proud to share that your donation helps us maintain and replenish over 40 Coat Closets. These vital resources, located in schools, agencies and community spaces, ensure that winter apparel is readily available to children who need it. We are deeply mindful of every dollar we spend, maximizing the impact of each donation to provide for as many children as possible. Your support is transforming lives and keeping our children warm, safe and thriving.

Thank you for helping us continue this important mission. Together, we are making a meaningful and lasting impact in our community.

With Gratitude, Susie—Executive Director for Susie's Coats For Kids & Hannah's Socks

Thank you for your generous support to the ministries of Vision Church/Vision Kitchen. We could not serve God as well as we do without your contribution.

Pastors Josh & Joy Hester, and Pastors Earl & Renee Harris

Thank you 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.

Sincerely, The Elmore Food Pantry

Praise Report

Henry Noble has been given a remission from leukemia diagnosis!

Those at Genoa Care Center:

Jackie Pelton

Norma Reif (Assisted Living)

Those with long-term health concerns:

Connie Winters (infection)

Don & Bonnie Weaver (at home)

Joel Marquart (at Riverview)

Joel Reeder (cancer treatment)

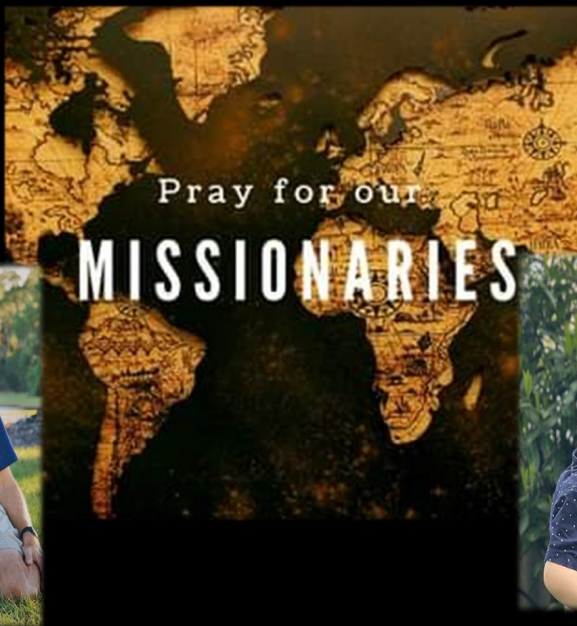
Steve Welling (ALS)

Sam Bolander (leg injury)



Ben & Mandi Wood
Elliana, Jonathan & Noah

Serving in Florida
as trainers for 



Jay & Zina Herman
Ari & Milo

Serving in Slovenia
through 



Dartball 2025

7:00 pm Tuesday Nights

January 28th @ home vs. Genoa St. John's UCC
 February 4th @ Mt Carmel
 February 11th @ Millbury St. Peter Ucc
 February 18th @ home vs. Oak Harbor St. Paul UCC



MEN'S BREAKFAST

FOOD x FELLOWSHIP x FAITH

February 9th @ 7:30 am



FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT

IN MARCH 9



On March 9th the whole church is invited to the Huntington Center for the Toledo Walleye Faith & Family Night! On this night there will be a special pre-game presentation featuring worship music by our very own Pastor Ryan Shields, as well as testimonials from the Toledo Walleye team chaplain and players. The Faith & Family portion will begin at 2:45 PM with game time starting at 5:15 PM. Tickets will be \$19 per person for the pre-game event and the game. Sign up to reserve tickets with the church office.

TOBYMAC'S **HITS DEEP** 2025


FEATURING **TOBYMAC CROWDER • GAIN**
 RYAN STEVENSON • TERRIAN

FEBRUARY 27



Attention TobyMac fans. Pastor Ryan has additional seats available for our youth group outing to see Tobymac on February 27th at the Huntington Center. The concert starts at 7 PM and we are now opening this up for any church members who would like to attend in addition to the youth group members who will be going. These tickets will be first come first serve and will be \$25 per person.

PICKLEBALL



Pickleball has come to Trinity!

Equipment and net are stored in the gym closets.

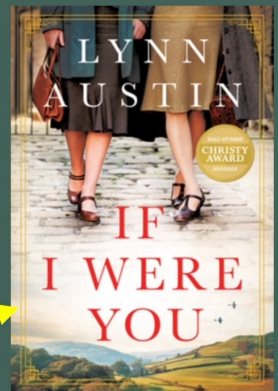
Come and play anytime the gym is free or contact Michele Avery or Nyla Denman for more information.

TRINITY WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, March 4th
6:30 pm @ church

Contact Veronica McMonigle with questions

This will be our next book
 Please read prior to our meeting



Coffee Fellowship

Tuesdays
8:00 am

Everyone Welcome!



RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

To Volunteer Contact
 Pastor Ryan or Baylee Malik

Adult Volunteers Needed to Chaperone Upcoming Events



Inclement
Weather
Announcement

Guidelines for Weather Cancellations at Trinity

Ottawa County Level 1:

Worship and church activities will be held as usual - please use common sense and precaution when traveling.

Ottawa County Level 2:

All non-worship activities before and after worship are cancelled - this means no Sunday School/Branching Out, church dinners or meeting that may be scheduled, etc. The worship service will be held for those who choose to attend and feel they can travel safely. Please use common sense and precaution when traveling.

Ottawa County Level 3:

No worship service or church-related activities



Do you feel called to visit with some of our older congregation members? Handbooks are available to help you with conversation starters as you get to know some of our older congregation members. Contact Nancy Turnow for more information.

PSALM 46:1-3

GOD IS

our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth
give way and the mountains fall into the heart of
the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the
mountains quake with their surging.

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). 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. 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.



Mission SPOTLIGHT

Mission Spotlight for February will be the Pastoral Compassion Fund. This fund is used at the discretion of the Pastor for emergency help situations that may be brought to our attention throughout the year.

To give toward this fund during the month of February, simply mark your check memo or envelope "Mission Spotlight".

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:

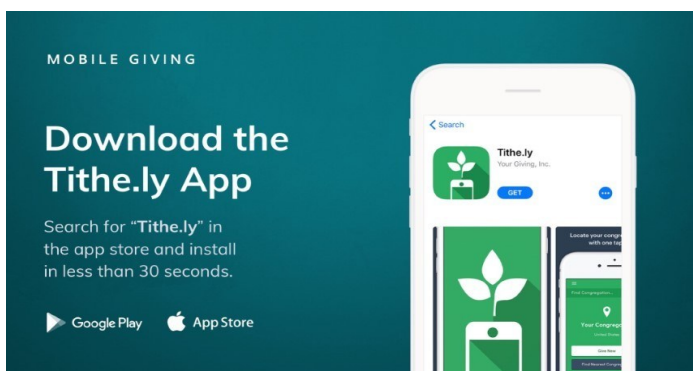
- Give to the church via Sunday offering, US Mail, or drop off (A wooden collection box is located on the wall outside the lower coat room for your convenience throughout the week.)

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. Click on the link and it will take you to our secure Tithe.ly page to set up your one time or reoccurring contribution.

You may also go to search the internet for Tithe.ly/ Give and look up our church, then fill in the giving form.

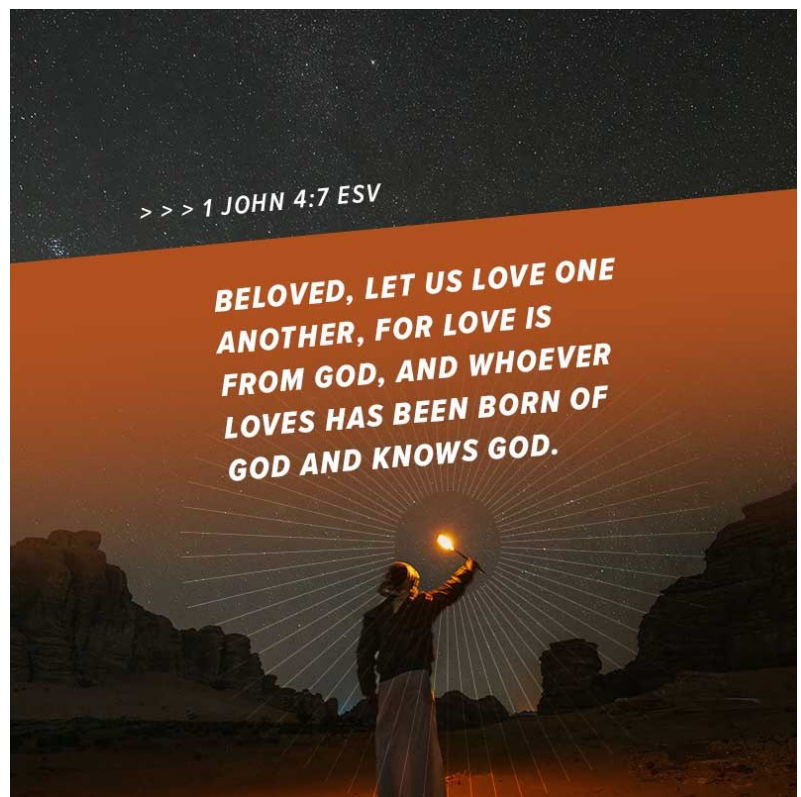
- **Give in App** - Download the Tithe.ly App from the [App Store](#) (iPhone) or [Google Play Store](#) (Android). Once you've downloaded the app, create an account or log in, locate our church and tap "Give Now" to complete your contribution.



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:

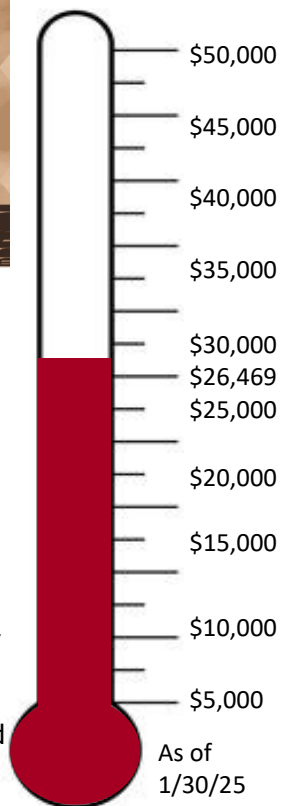
Maintenance work on the boilers
Paint, Batteries, Light bulbs and new lights
Parts to fix & repair things in the church
Carpet Cleaning/Floor Waxing
Snow Removal & Lawn Care



Firm Foundation Campaign

- To date \$26,469.73 has been given toward the Firm Foundation Campaign with expenses of \$12,069.03 for repair of the basement leaving a balance of \$14,400.70 on hand.
- Goal of \$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

FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Adult CC 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion & Kids Church Trustee: Brad Jess Izzy Britt (B) Elsie Sutter (B)	3	4 8:00 am Coffee Fellowship 7:00 pm Dartball @ Mt. Carmel	5 5:30 pm Hall: McCloskey Dick Denman (B)	6	7	8
9 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Adult CC 10:00 am Worship & Kids Church Trustee: Ryan Chamberlain Ali Dresser (B)	10 7:00 pm Church Council	11 8:00 am Coffee Fellowship 7:00 pm Dartball @ Millbury St. Peter UCC Ann Diekman (B)	12 5:30 pm Hall: McCloskey	13	14 Homeschool Co-Op	15 Social Group: Euchre
16 9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Adult CC 10:00 am Worship & Kids Church Trustee: Keaston Reif Eric Gahler (B)	17	18 8:00 am Coffee Fellowship 7:00 pm Dartball @ home vs Oak Harbor St. Paul UCC	19 5:30 pm Hall: McCloskey Dean Ayotte (B)	20 Tidings Info for March Due to Church Office Turner Hayes (B)	21 Bryan Buhro (B) Don & Bonnie Weaver (A)	22 5:30 pm Wittman Home Group Emmalynn Liphart (B)
23 9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Adult CC 10:00 am Worship & Kids Church Trustee: Doug Avery Ed Gahler (B)	24 Marty Hoeft (B)	25 8:00 am Coffee Fellowship 7:00 pm Dartball @ Rocky Ridge Brad Britt (B)	26 5:30 pm Hall: McCloskey Alyssa Bickley (B) Dave & Tracy Dresser (A)	27 Toby Mac Concert @ the Huntington Center Doug Avery (B)	28 Homeschool Co-Op Reese Wittman (B)	

There's a place for you here!

CONNECT

GROW

SERVE



419-862-3417
TrinityElliston.org

Sunday School
9:00 am
Nursery through
Adult Classes

Sunday Worship
10:00 am
Nursery & Kids'
Church Available

Hearing Assistance Devices
Available
from the
Tech Booth
Upon Request



17955 W Third St
Elliston, OH 43432

Phone: 419-862-3417
Email: tucc1862@gmail.com
Website: trinityelliston.org

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

Pastor: Ryan Shields
Pastor's Email: ryandshields@outlook.com

Children's Ministry Director: Janene Lattimore
Janene's Email: janenelattimore11@gmail.com