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News From Pastor Ryan:

12 MONTHS LATER: A reflection on the church during COVID-19

Hello Church Family,

It is strange to write to you on the eve of March. March 11th of 2020 is a day that will now be etched into my memory forever. March 11th was the day we as a church began to have conversations around what the church response would be to the Covid-19 pandemic and the growing concern in our community. For much of the day it was very normal around the church. People were coming in to take pictures for our upcoming photo directory. We were working on the outline for a Wednesday Night Lenten service with our friends from Zion Church. During the day we began to receive phone calls from concerned members about their growing concern about the coronavirus. Around midday we heard from friends that the Genoa Care Center had began restrictions on people in and out of the building. Even clergy were asked to stay away. The World Health Organization declared the coronavirus a global pandemic. Yet, as I prepared for that evening's service, it all still seemed very distant from us in Elliston. We joked that evening about not shaking hands and trying not to cough or sneeze on each other. We had a good service. As I left that night, I found my phone notifications going into overdrive. The NBA had suspended the current basketball season after a Covid outbreak. The NHL did the same. Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson had tested positive and were in quarantine. The Big Ten was considering cancelling basketball all together.

Waking up on March 12th, it was like we woke up to a whole new world. Gov. DeWine closed schools for at least two weeks. March Madness was cancelled. Museums and Parks began to close. The United States began to shut down international travel. They shut down Walt Disney World, even! And, most heartbreaking for us as a church family, churches all across the country began to suspend services. It was at this time that we began to hear the phrases that would dominate our year. "Flatten the curve" and "social distancing" were suddenly part of the lexicon. Toilet paper and hand sanitizer became like gold. Zoom meetings, Facebook and YouTube livestreaming became the way of the church.

All of that to say nothing of the real trauma felt once Covid-19 made it into our backyards. Ottawa County and Elliston remained mostly unaffected through the spring, but by summer we were losing loved ones and experiencing local outbreaks. Doctors and nurses were overworked. Teachers and parents were stressed. Retail workers were filled with anxiety.

While 2020 into 2021 has seen some highs and lows, I think the feeling of anxiety is what will carry with us. Now, after a full year of this pandemic we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. People are beginning to imagine a world where Covid-19 is a bad memory. But, for many, the scars from this year will carry. We will be haunted by the anxiety of isolation, separation, and fear that plagued this year. Today, we find ourselves asking, what comes next?



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- March 3rd at 7:00pm Lent Bible Study
 - March 7th at 7:30 am Men's Breakfast
 - March 8th at 7:00pm Church Council
 - March 10th at 7:00pm Lent Bible Study
 - March 17th at 7:00pm Lent Bible Study
 - March 24th at 7:00pm Lent Bible Study
 - April 1st at 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service
 - Sunday April 4th at 7am and 9:30am Easter Service (identical services)
 - 9:00 Easter Breakfast
-
- Reminder to RSVP to the church office for Easter Service and if your interested in breakfast

News From Pastor Ryan Continued:

Perhaps after all this separation, we should remind ourselves that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Romans tells us that clearly. There are those who thought not being physically present in the church would separate them from God's love, but that's not the case. In our community I have seen people pouring out God's love to each other throughout the last twelve months. There are those who thought disease might separate them from God's love. Those who thought their own sin would separate them from God's love. But Jesus is a reminder that God is near and with us. After a year of separation, we take comfort in the nearness of God. His voice as close as a whisper. We are reminded of His love as we look to Easter.

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. -Romans 8:38-39

After a year of separation, isolation, and pain, we look this year to the cross. We remember the suffering of Jesus, the price paid for sin. We remember that even Jesus himself felt separated from the Father asking "Why have you forsaken me?" Yet, this wasn't the end. After His death, He was restored, and the glory of God was fulfilled. We pray that the next twelve months will be a period of restoration. Let us be reconnected to each other, to our community, and to God.

Be blessed,
Pastor Ryan

From Trinity Tidings of Years Gone By —

March 1936:

Organ Demonstration

Through the courtesy of the J.W. Greene Music Company of Toledo and Mr. L.E. Idoine representative, we were privileged to have a new Hammond Electric Organ brought out and demonstrated in our church. Both churches in Elliston were well represented and from all reports they enjoyed the demonstration and concert immensely. Too bad they didn't forget to take the organ along. We hope not many years hence we may have an organ in the church to keep.

New Offering Plates

Three solid walnut handmade offering plates were dedicated on Sunday, February 16. They were presented to the church by the Sunday-school classes of Mr. Karl Zwicker and Mrs. Freida Buhro. In the name of the church we thank these classes for their beautiful gift. Thanks also to Mr. Carl Zwicker who turned them out for the these classes. This gift will long continue to serve the church and the Kingdom.

Church Council Minutes

The Trinity United Church of Christ, Elliston Church Council met on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 6:30pm. Desirae McCloskey, President, called meeting to order, and Ed Gahler opened with prayer. Those in attendance were as follows: President Desirae McCloskey, Vice President Luke Sutter, Ashley Gahler, Bonnie Weaver, Ed Gahler, Brianne Perry, Troy Wittman, Connie Gahler, Brad Jess, Jim Buhro, Michael Sager, Jim Laughlin, and Church Secretary Rhonda Mahaney were present.

Reports:

Recording Secretary: Meeting minutes from December meeting and congregational meeting were read prior to the meeting by members. Motion to accept the minutes were made by first Brad Jess, second by Troy Wittman, MC

Secretary Report:

Photo directory still to be shipped in January. No new information
Giving statements are out
Rhonda using vacation days on Thursday 1/14 and Monday 1/18

Financial Report:

Rhonda reviewed year-end balance sheets.
Motion to approve financial secretary report first by Luke Sutter, second by Bonnie Weaver, MC.

CD renewal- changed to a new 13-month CD as it was a better rate

Pastor Report:

None at this time. Pastor Ryan recovering from surgery

Committee Reports:

Worship Team

Coverings taken care of while Pastor Ryan is out

EFY- Branching Out and Thrive

Will meet soon to make decisions on if and when it is safe to restart Branching Out and Thrive

Mission

Meeting again in February.
Mission spotlight for February is Keerstin Pelow. Missions will be raising funds to help with expenses for her mission trip to Nicaragua
Angel tree recipients were very appreciative of all gifts
Bulletin boards are being updated with mission's information and mission spotlights

Trustee Report

Salt will only be used when there is snow

to reduce salt being brought inside church

Two more estimates for doors should be in tomorrow (1/12) due to bad condition of doors. Two estimates have already been received from Bellevue Doors and Northwood Door. The new doors will be metal and plan to be painted to look like wood. These are the double woods doors in the sanctuary near the organ and on the west side by stairs.

Keaston Rife and other members of church replaced installation and ceiling tile in Pastor Ryan's office and the Branching Out classroom.

Pastoral Relations Committee

No update

Church and Ministry

no update

2030 Team

phase 1 proposal has been approved and team will begin working on phase 2

Old Business:

Evelyn Schimming will
Both properties must be purchased together due to location of septic. Can be purchased at this time for \$40,000

Motion made by Troy Wittman to wave first right to buying land for \$40,000. Second by Jim Laughlin.

New Business:

none at this time

Motion to adjourn meeting by first Luke Sutter and second by Michael Sager, MC.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14pm by Desirae McCloskey.
Respectfully submitted, Ashley Gahler, Recording Secretary.

General Operating Fund Report (approved)

Beginning 1/1/21	\$14,925.77
Offering/Income	\$7,210.53
Expenses	\$9,994.66
Balance 1/31/21	\$12,141.64

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

RED LETTER DAY

In some Bibles the words of Jesus are marked with red letters. This is so we can take special note of what Jesus was telling us throughout the Gospel. Some of the most famous red letter passages are the words Jesus said on the cross. With his last breaths, Jesus provides insight into the nature of God and the Kingdom of Heaven. This Lenten season, hear the final words of Jesus before His death on the cross and prepare for the ultimate Red Letter Day on Easter.

March 7th: "Behold your son, Behold your mother"

March 14th: "My God, have you forsaken me?"

March 21st: "I thirst"

March 28th: "It Is Finished"

April 1st (Maundy Thursday): "Father into your hands I commend my spirit"

April 4th (Easter Sunday): The Final Word "He Has Risen"



LENT ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

The Lenten Season is upon us again as we begin to look to the cross of Jesus and the empty grave, the signs of our salvation. This year, all Lenten services will be held at Trinity. Check back for more information on Easter Sunday. All . Our Lenten schedule is as follows:

ALL SERVICES AT 7 PM via Zoom

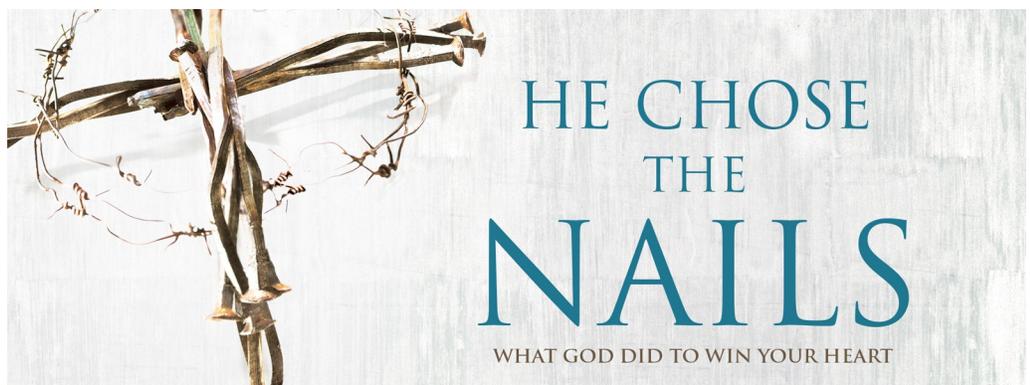
March 3rd: Lenten Study *He Chose the Nails* Week Two

March 10th: Lenten Study *He Chose the Nails* Week Three

March 17th: Lenten Study *He Chose the Nails* Week Four

March 24th: Lenten Study *He Chose the Nails* Week Five

He Chose the Nails is a 5 Week Video Series led by Pastor and author Max Lucado. This study explores the radical way that Jesus chose to interact with humanity. Every gift from God reveals his love, but no gift reveals his love more than the gifts of the cross. Have we taken time to open these? As we do, we find that Jesus did it all just for us. Unwrap the gifts of grace as if for the first time. And as you touch them, as you feel the timber of the cross and trace the braid of the crown and finger the point of the spike, pause and listen. Perchance you will hear him whisper: "I did it just for you."

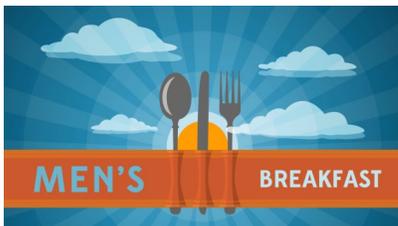


Christian Education News!!!!

TEACHERS

THRIVE Teachers: Dan G., Nyla D., Jan C.

Date	2-3 Nursery	PreK Teacher	K-2 Teacher
Week 1	Rebecca R.	Desirae M.	Kylene L.
Week 2	Faith S.	Brittany W.	Janene L.
Week 3	Jen L.	Ashley G.	Ashley Z.
Week 4	LouAnn Z.	Casi J.	Jamie K.



Men's Breakfast Is Back!!!! Men are invited to join us on Sunday, March 7th at 7:30am. If you are interested in serving a meal, or would like more information, please contact Ed G.

TITHE.LY

Giving to your local church using [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) is super easy! We offer a number of different ways to give to your church, which we'll outline in this article.

#1 - GIVE ON YOUR CHURCH WEBSITE

The recommended way to give is to go through your church's website. They likely have a section titled "Giving" or "Online Giving" where you can give using the Tithe.ly platform. If they do not have that, you can use one of the methods listed below.

#2 - GIVE ONLINE

If you're on a computer (or any device with an internet connection), you can easily give to your church by heading to [Tithe.ly/Give](https://www.tithe.ly/Give). Once there, search for your church, and fill in the giving form.

#3 - GIVE IN APP

Want to give to your church using the convenience of your smartphone? No problem! Download the Tithe.ly App from the [App Store](https://www.tithe.ly) (iPhone) or [Google Play Store](https://www.tithe.ly) (Android). Once you've downloaded the app, create an account or log in, locate your church and tap "Give Now" to complete your gift!

MEMORIAL THANK YOU

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>

TABLE & CHAIR SIGN-OUT

Just a reminder with holidays and family gathering season upon us, 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. The tables and chairs that can be taken out, are all located in the shed.

HALL USE RESERVATIONS

There are forms on the wall next to the calendar. You are now required to fill out a form for any event that you would like to have in the church (including any rollover event for holiday parties-rollover dates will be allowed, but we would like the forms filled out as well). Please do not just write it on the calendar any more. Once it is reviewed, it will be added to the calendar. If you have any questions, please contact Rhonda.

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Memorial Thank You

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families of Marilyn Appelhans. We would like to thank the following for their memorials given in her name.

John & Jackie Bast, Women's Fellowship, Ron & Elizabeth Ayotte, Eloise Hellwig Family, Dwayne & Eva Hoelt, Doyle & Helen Sommer, Ray & Ann David, Dan & Connie Gahler, Vi Gahler, Donna Schell, Lauren & Faye Milbrodt, Dale & Ava Bodnar, Melvin & Norma Reif, Richard & Nyla Denman, Jim & Shirley Buhro, Paul & Robin Hansen, Suzanne Buhro, Myron & Sara Zibbel, Jackie Pelton, Don & Bonnie Weaver

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY



Marilyn Kathryn Appelhans

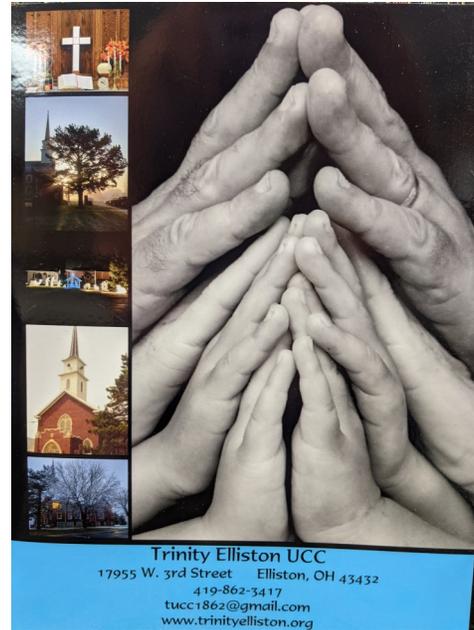
Marilyn K. Appelhans, 90, formerly of Graytown, Ohio, passed away peacefully Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at Boone Spring, Union, Kentucky. Marilyn was born June 28, 1930 in Curtice, Ohio to Fred and Sylvia (Porath) Zibbel. She attended Genoa Schools and graduated from Oak Harbor High School in 1948. On September 9, 1950, Marilyn married the love of her life, Carl Appelhans. For over 50 years, Marilyn served as the office manager of Trinity United Church of Christ, Elliston. Marilyn's devoted service to Trinity continued, serving as choir director and president of the women's fellowship. She enjoyed playing cards, traveling with her family throughout the United States, boating, fishing, and creating hand-crafted greeting cards and crocheted afghans for family and friends. Marilyn was a poll worker for many years with the Ottawa County Board of Elections. Her true love was her family; whether attending her grandchildren's activities or playing the accordion in the family band, she will be dearly missed.

Marilyn is survived by her children, Danny (Kathy) Appelhans and Dawn (Jan) Grieger; grandchildren, Nicolas Appelhans (Shannon LaRock), Nancy (Mike) Redick, Joshua Grieger, and JaNay (Tim) Lastivka; great-grandchildren, Jenna, Andrew, Ayden, Addyson, Parker, Carter, and Spencer; brother, Myron (Sara) Zibbel; along with many nieces, nephews, loving family members and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband of 54 years, Carl.

The family will receive friends at Trinity United Church of Christ, 17955 West Third Street, Elliston on Saturday, February 6, 2021 from 10:00 am until time of funeral service at 11:00 am. Those in attendance are required to wear a mask and observe social distancing guidelines. Interment: Elliston Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may be directed in the form of contributions to Trinity United Church of Christ. Eggleston Meinert & Pavley Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

MEDICAL LENDING SUPPLIES

It has been wonderful to see the medical supplies donated to Trinity. The basement kitchen area is nearly overflowing, thanks to all of you. That being said, it also bears repeating that those items are available for YOUR use! There are a few wheelchairs, arm slings, compression stockings, and even a shower bag for a cast, to name a few. How about a massage cushion? Some items might come in handy for first aid such as Ace wraps and Band-Aids. So please think of TUCC for yourselves or those loved ones in times of need. Ask any of our medical professionals for help if needed. Thanks! Robin Hansen.



Just a reminder that the photo directories are in!

*Thank
you*



“Thank you to my Trinity friends for the kind thoughts, prayers, and cards for when I was in the hospital and ill recently. Even back to Christmas time when the carolers came. It was sweet of them to come here and the cookies were great! Thank you so much, I appreciated everything.”

~Suzanne Buhro

If you had your photo taken/turned in a photo, you have a book with your label on it waiting for you on the table by the elevator.

If you didn't get your photo taken, there are extra books on the table as well.

Enjoy our new directory!

MARCH MISSION SPOTLIGHT

MISSION SPOTLIGHT: FAMILY HOUSE

Established in 1985, Family House is a unique shelter dedicated to preserving the family unit during a time of crisis. Recognizing that many families were trapped in a cycle of poverty, Family House developed services needed to successfully move families from homelessness to self-sufficiency. Comprehensive programs such as family residence, emergency shelter, kitchen and food programs, clothing, health and financial education are all a part of Family House's model to restore the whole family out of poverty and crisis. Family House provides not only for the immediate needs of families, but gives these families the tools to become self-sufficient.

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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