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## News From Pastor Ryan:

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD:

Church, I'm going to be honest with you. The next four weeks are some of my **LEAST FAVORITE** weeks every four years. And it's not because politics isn't important. Nor is it because the values and virtues of our elected officials don't matter, they most certainly do!

It's because every election cycle people seem to forget more and more how to talk to each other like people. Every idea, every comment is scrutinized under the microscope of Republican vs. Democrat, Red vs. Blue, and us vs. them. At the height our political frenzy, dialogue and discussion turns into little more than team sports. All that is important to many is that "MY TEAM" wins and "YOUR TEAM" loses.

Now, this isn't true for everyone. But, I'm sure you've seen the same things. Family dinner tables ruined by bitter arguments over politics. Friendships ruined over political affiliations. For the church, the worst of it comes when someone makes an outlandish definitive statement such as: "No real Christian could ever be a Democrat" or "No true Christian could support Donald Trump". These statements of absolutes are neither true, nor backed by Scripture.

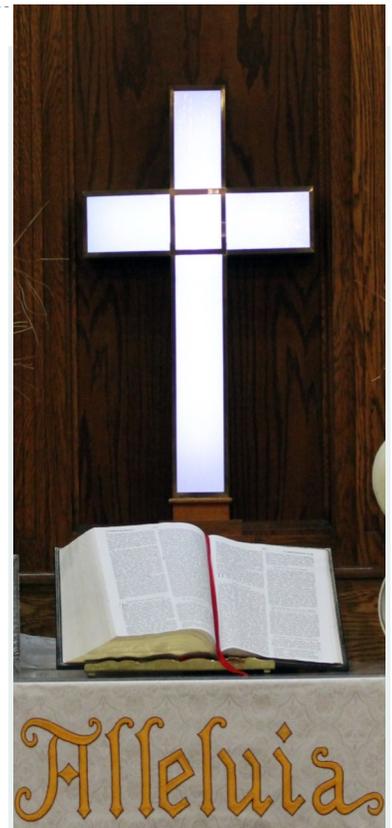
As we enter another election cycle, I ask that we as a church keep the following in mind.

### **We belong to God, and by extension His church in Jesus Christ.**

Our faith is not in humans nor parties. We get in trouble when we think any one individual or party represents the fullness of our faith. We are all flawed, including the most powerful leaders. If you put your faith in a politician, you will most likely find yourself unsatisfied. Never confuse political preference with the joys of salvation in Jesus Christ. Paul warns us about the limits of human wisdom, even for powerful world leaders who speak with authority and Earthly wisdom "*When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power*" (1 Cor. 2:1-5). Remember this when you are voting. No President or politician will be our savior, for that title belongs to Christ.

**No matter who wins, we should commit now to pray for their leadership.** I know, some reading this will cringe at the idea of praying for Trump/Pence or Biden/Harris. As people of faith, we believe God is in control. We don't always understand why God allows some to have power and others to lose it. We must believe every new development is a part of God's continuing work around us. Romans tells us that God is working all things for His good. Again, Paul tells us "*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior*" (1 Timothy

...continued on the next page....



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- ◆ October 5th at 7:30pm  
TUCC night at the  
Drive In Movie
- ◆ October 11th Deep  
Dive Discussion group  
starts and goes for 4  
weeks
- ◆ October 12th at 7pm  
Church Council
- ◆ October 25th Boo-Fest  
Digital scavenger hunt  
starts

## PASTOR MESSAGE CONTINUED

2:1-3). We are urged to pray for our leaders, for their salvation, their wisdom, and for the influence they will have on our community. No matter who is victorious in the upcoming election, commit to pray for them.

**The church would be stronger if our values had less to do with politics, and more to do with faith.** Paul teaches that the Fruit of the Spirit, the marks of a true believer are *“love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control”* (Galatians 5:22-23). You’ll notice this has nothing to do with your policy on immigration. It says nothing of what you think about the tax code. It doesn’t mention health care, schools, or federal regulations either. And it certainly doesn’t touch on any number of highly controversial social issues that we hear so much about each election year. Your policy is not what makes you a Christian. Paul is clear. You want to know if someone is a Christian? Don’t ask them about Red vs. Blue. Don’t check their yard for campaign signs. Ask yourself if they are loving, patient, gentle, and kind. You’ll have a much clearer picture of their devotion to God.

I pray for all of us as we finish out another election cycle. Whatever happens, remember, God is in control! We are His people! Everything we do is ***For The Love Of God.***

-Pastor Ryan



### THE DEEP DIVE:

Starting October 11<sup>th</sup> after service  
(Four Week Discussion Group)

Have you ever left on Sunday morning and wished you could talk about what you heard? Has a message ever resonated with a story from your own life? Starting October 11<sup>th</sup>, we invite you to the DEEP DIVE. Each week we’ll take a look at that week’s message and ask how it applies to our own lives. We’ll get to know each other better, and dive deeper in Scripture. Our prayer is that by diving deeper, we won’t just hear a message, we’ll take it into the world and use it. Hope to see you there.

### NEW SERMON SERIES:

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD

October 11<sup>th</sup> – FTLOG: PEACE

October 18<sup>th</sup>- FTLOG: PATIENCE

October 25<sup>th</sup>- FTLOG: KINDNESS

November 1<sup>st</sup>- FTLOG: UNITY



## UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS



On Monday October 5<sup>th</sup>, Trinity Elliston and St. John's Genoa will partner together to rent out the Sundance Kid Drive-In on Navarre in Oregon. We know it's a school night! We really just wanted something fun the whole family could enjoy, young and old, after a difficult spring and summer! The concession stand will be open. It will be free for all our church friends. THE LION KING will be playing. And we want everyone to come out. Grab your blankets and your lawn chairs and let's eat popcorn and watch a movie together. The Drive-In will open at 6:30 PM and we'll start the movie at 7:30 PM.

### **"BOO-FEST" DIGITAL SCAVENGER HUNT:**

The Missions & Outreach Team is currently planning a replacement event for our annual BOO-FEST. This year, BOO-FEST will be a Digital Scavenger Hunt starting on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Prizes for winning teams and families! Watch out for more information!

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#### **Do you have a hidden talent/hobby?**

Trinity is looking to compile a list of people's hidden talents/hobbies. We were thinking, wouldn't it be nice if we had a list and if we needed something, we could look up a church member for help? For example – say you needed some emergency clothing alterations done, who could you call? If we had a list, you might be able to find someone here at Trinity that could help you out. We would like to publish this list to our members that may be looking for someone who does "xyz".

If you would take a few minutes to complete either the survey below, or click on the link <https://forms.gle/XTa3hGPOXLQObpivK8> to complete the survey, we would sure appreciate it.

Please let the office or Robin H. know if you have any questions. Thanks in advance for sharing your talents/hobbies with all of your church family.

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like your talent/hobby published to everyone? Yes or No (or would you rather hobby be known just by the office?)

Is it OK to list your phone number on list? Yes or No

What are your talents that you would like to share? (please list)

What are some of your hobbies that you would like to share? (please list)

## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

The Trinity United Church of Christ, Elliston Church Council met on Monday, August 10th, 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, Troy Wittman, Marty Hoefft, Brad Jess, Eric Gahler, Ed Gahler, Pastor Ryan Shields, and Church Secretary Rhonda Mahaney were present. Nate Diekman, Jim Buhro, and Jayson Hayes were absent.

### **Reports:**

**Recording Secretary:** Meeting minutes from the July council meeting were read prior to the meeting by members. Motion to accept the minutes were made by first Brad Jess, second by Bonnie Weaver, MC.

### **Secretary Report:**

Photo Directory Update

Waiting for return of proof hopefully here no later than next week

PPP Loan forgiveness application has been submitted. The bank portal to enter the application doesn't open until August 10<sup>th</sup>.

AED unit battery is dead and we need new charging pads. Will purchase new battery and charging pads

Hall use

Will update contract and sign liability waiver requiring renter to follow cleaning up check list. Renter must be a member of the church. Will require a \$100 deposit to anyone renting the hall, and as long as the cleaning check list is completed appropriately funds will be refunded. Motion by first Desirae McCloskey, second Eric Gahler, and Marty Hoefft opposed, MC.

### **Financial Report:**

Review of budget

Approval of financial report by first Brad Jess, and second by Marty Hoefft, MC.

### **Pastor Report:**

Worship

Hybrid worship continues with 15-20

in-person attendees and 50-75 watching the livestream across two platforms. Working to provide better streaming and back up streams.

Communion served at home and in person on August 2<sup>nd</sup>

Worship team reconvened to discuss worship services moving forward. Ideas were suggested about greeters, communion, Rev Corbin's 50<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary, and a replacement event for Turnow Pond

Exploring the option of a midweek or Sunday night additional worship or Bible study opportunity to continue outreach and spiritual growth. Either streaming or for a smaller group on Zoom.

### **Events/Activities**

Church Picnic: A small outdoor gathering will take place for church members who desire to see each other but not attend Sunday morning. Families are welcome to claim a spot in the yard, socially distance, or remain in their cars. Picnic will start at 11am with Worship music and a brief devotional, followed by lunch. Families are asked to pack their own lunch or join in a group pizza order. We ask all families to RSVP.

Rhonda and I led the tech team for the NWOA Annual Meeting on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Rev. Corbin acknowledged for 50 years of Ordained Ministry.

Missions: Missions team met on August 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss the way forward for missions. Plans for the school supply drive this year were made. Rather than giving to individuals we are going to give to the area school districts (Oak Harbor, Genoa, and Woodmore) and allow teachers and faculty to find the needs. Targeting specifically the Elementary and Middle Schools.

Replacement Boo Fest Event: will be a family Digital Scavenger hunt and other family activity. Most likely a week-long event with various tasks and activities with winners determined the following Sunday.

Food Pantry Drive: For September and October we will do drives for our Food Pantries that have been hit hard during the pandemic and shut down. Most likely collecting staples like toiletries, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, etc.

### **Pastoral Ministries**

Visits have been replaced with more phone calls and text messages, with the occasional

socially distant visits. We've had many prayer chain concerns over the last month in addition to families still grieving the loss of loved ones.

Pastor Ryan will be on vacation from August 31<sup>st</sup> thru September 6<sup>th</sup>

**Committee Reports:**

**Worship Team**

Welcome to church videos recorded by families

**EFY- Branching Out & THRIVE**

Meeting August 11th

**Mission**

Discussed in Pastor's Report

**Trustee Report**

Painting throughout the church  
Need to get another quote to compare prices  
Nate and Brad plan to get a lift and wash walls in the gym prior to painting  
Brad Jess will be gone from September 1<sup>st</sup> thru the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Mowing will be done and church will need to be opened  
Trustees will discuss  
One quote received for gym lights, and plan to get another quote to compare  
Donna Witt has a potential buyer for her property next to church  
Concerned about maintenance easement  
Needs one drawn up and wondered if we could help pay for it  
Will see how much and proceed from there

**Pastoral Relations Committee**

Nothing new at this time

**2030 Team**

Meeting August 20<sup>th</sup>

**Old Business:**

Audit is completely finished and was all good  
OH Food Pantry Garden will be revisited next year  
AC quotes  
Received one quote so far  
Need insulation quotes as well, and to prioritize  
Insulation before air conditioning?

**New Business:**

Rhonda does not get a paid vacation

Will find out who will make this decision Church and Ministry?

Motion to adjourn meeting by first Desirae McCloskey and second by Bonnie Weaver, MC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm by Nyla Denman.

Respectfully submitted, Faith Sutter, Recording Secretary.

**General Operating Fund Report (approved)**

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

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Beginning 8/1/20  | \$37,377.04 |
| Offering/Income   | \$14,613.56 |
| Expenses          | \$7,342.33  |
| Balance 8/30/2020 | \$44,648.27 |

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>

**Coupons/Food Pantry Items**

Doug & I dropped off some items for the food pantry at Ellison Zion Methodist. This is going to be the last contribution to any food pantry until the Covid virus situation is cleared up. I do not go the grocery stores any more. If things clear up and if I continue the donations I will let you know. Thanks for all the help that you have given me!

me!  
~Karen Lick 5

## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

### Memorial Thank You

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

Doug & Karen Lick, Steve & Nancy Turnow, Eloise Hellwig, Women's Fellowship, Nyla & Richard Denman, Melvin & Norma Reif, Fay Bolander, Myron & Sara Zibbel, Lauren & Faye Milbrodt, Ed & Jane Gahler

**Glenn Sager** — Glenn E. Sager, 73 of Graytown, OH died Thursday, September 10, 2020 at Mercy- St. Charles Hospital, Oregon, OH. He was born January 10, 1947 in Port Clinton, OH to the late Earl and Mary (Noeltner) Sager. He was a 1965 graduate of Harris- Elmore High School, Elmore, OH. Glenn served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. On June 12, 1970 he married the former Vera Krumnow and she survives. He was a retired Sheet Metal Worker for the Union Local # 33 out of Toledo, OH. He was a member of Trinity United Church of Christ, Elliston. Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Vera of Graytown; children: Michael (Kerianne) Sager of Millbury, OH and Wendy (Kevin) Swantek of Medina, OH; grandchildren: Konnor & Jaxon Sager, Casey (Dalton) Krott, Jacob, Courtney, Carley, Joshua and Jed Kish and Alex and Joshua Swantek; sister Bonnie (Donald) Weaver and brother-in-law Paul Brake. He was preceded in death by his parents, and sister Ilene Brake. Due to the Covid19 pandemic, all services will be privately held at the Crosser & Priesman Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Oak Harbor Chapel. The Funeral Service, for those who wish to watch it live streamed, will be broadcast both from the obituary page on the website or the Crosser Funeral Home YouTube page on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 beginning at 1pm. Burial will be in Elliston Cemetery. Those wishing to make contributions are asked to consider Trinity United Church of Christ, V.F.W. Post #8732, or American Legion Post #114.



*Gene But Not Forgotten, Forever In Our Hearts*

### Memorial Thank You

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

Steve & Nancy Turnow, Ron & Kathy Giesler, Eloise Helwig, Women's Fellowship, Doug & Karen Lick, Darrell Opfer & Virginia Park, Ron & Elizabeth Ayotte Family, Ed & Jane Gahler, Melvin & Norma Reif, Dale & Ava Bodnar, Dan & Connie Gahler, Vi Gahler, Jim & Jen Laughlin, Donna Witt, Paul & Robin Hansen, Lauren & Faye Milbrodt, Nyla & Richard Denman, Donna Schell, Fay Bolander, Dwayne & Eva Hoeft, Suzanne Buhro, Jim & Shirley Buhro,

**Evelyn Marie Schimming**, 92, of Elliston, Ohio, passed away on Sunday, September 20, 2020 at ProMedica Bay Park Hospital in Oregon, Ohio. She was born December 26, 1927 in Elliston to Fred and Elizabeth (Suhrbier) Opfer.

Evelyn was a member of Trinity United Church of Christ in Elliston and the UCC Women's Fellowship. She was also involved in the Genoa Area Senior Citizens and in her spare time, enjoyed gardening and crocheting. Evelyn was a Dietician Aid at the Little Sisters of the Poor during the 1980's.

On September 25, 1948, Evelyn married Wesley E. Schimming in Elliston, Ohio. They shared 53 anniversaries before his passing on March 26, 2002. Together, they had a son, Randal (Helen) Schimming and he survives. Also surviving are grandchildren, Joy Fuller and Shannon Petersen; 5 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren with 1 on the way. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Wesley; brothers, Harold, Norman, Gerald, Vernon, Milton, Donald and Arnold Opfer; and sister, Eleanor Opfer.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, September 24, 2020 from 3-7 p.m. at the Robinson-Walker Funeral Home and Crematory, 501 West Street, Genoa, Ohio. Funeral Services for family and friends will be held at Trinity UCC, 17955 W. 3rd Street, Elliston, Ohio on Friday, September 25, 2020, beginning at 11 a.m. Burial will follow at Elliston Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Trinity UCC or to a [charity of the donor's choice](#).

## BRANCHING OUT NEWS

### TEACHERS

| 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 |             | Ashley G.    | Ashley Z.   |
| Week 4 | LouAnn Z.   | Casi J.      | Jamie K.    |

### *From Trinity Tidings of Years Gone By —*

*October 1945*

#### Center Aisle Arranged & Organ Installation Proceeds

Things have been happening in our church auditorium since we last printed The Tidings. The church pews have been changed around to form a center aisle, and the platform of the choir loft has been built. The installation of the organ is also proceeding. The blower has arrived and Mr. McKitrick has been working on the electric switchboard of the console. As this and other work proceeds, the day for the dedication of our organ draws nearer.

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

## *Christian Education News!!!!*

### THANK YOU

“Thank you so much for your recent contribution to the Genoa Area Community Food Pantry. We are so grateful for your donation. In this troubling time we are experiencing, this donation will help the food pantry to continue its mission of serving community members in need.”

~Genoa Area Community Food Pantry

“ Thank you so much for your continued support of the BCS Food Pantry. Without support from you and others like you we could not help those in need. God bless you and keep you healthy and happy. Thanks again.”

~The BCS Food Pantry

“The students and staff at Genoa Elementary would like to thank you for your generous supply donation.”

~Students & Staff at Genoa Elementary

### OUTSIDE ACTIVITY—THE QUIET THINGS IN CONCERT

If you are interested in supporting Pastor Ryan, his acoustic guitar duo called the Quiet Things will be playing at Ignite Coffee & Tea Co. in Genoa on October 24th for their three-year anniversary. The Quiet Things along with local musician Gabby Dunn will play multiple sets from 5-8 PM. This is an OUTDOOR and SOCIALLY DISTANCED event. Stay warm, consider bringing a chair and listen to great music!

## OCTOBER MISSION SPOTLIGHT

Our Mission Spotlight for this month is: Fill the Food Pantries!

During the past six months of uncertainty our local food pantries have been hit hard. For October, we're making it our mission to help support and resupply the four area food pantries we connect with. This includes the BCS Food Pantry in Oak Harbor, the Elmore Community Food Pantry, The Genoa Food Pantry, and the LIGHT Neighborhood Pantry here in Elliston. In addition to collecting funds to share between the pantries, we will also be collecting staple items to resupply our pantries. Staple items include:

- Cereal
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Canned Soup
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Vegetables
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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