



# Tidings

VOLUME 99, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 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:

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

Saturday, January 4  
Trinity Social Group  
Bowling @ Rossford  
6:45 pm

Thursday, January 9  
Women's Book Group  
@ 6:30 pm

Sunday, January 12  
Annual Congregational  
Meeting after church

Sunday, January 12  
Youth Event for all Middle  
School & High School  
students ~ Invite friends!  
5:00-7:00 pm

Thursday, January 16  
Genoa Food Pantry  
Box Packing  
@ 6:30 pm

Pastor Ryan on Vacation  
January 17-24

Saturday, January 18  
Genoa Food Pantry  
Box Distribution  
8:45 am

## A Season of Renewal: Beginning 2025 in Christ

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:  
The old has gone, the new is here!"*  
2 Corinthians 5:17

As we turn the page to a new year, the word "renewal" seems to resonate deeply. The calendars are fresh, the possibilities endless, and our hearts eager to move forward. Yet, as believers, we are reminded that true renewal doesn't come from resolutions, self-discipline, or our own strength. True renewal springs from the work of Christ within us.

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul declares that in Christ we are made new. This transformation is not superficial or temporary; it is a complete renewal of who we are. The old - our sins, our failures, and even our self-reliance - is gone, and we step into the newness of life in Christ. This is a renewal rooted not in human effort but in God's grace.

As we embark on 2025, let us carry this truth in our hearts: we are being renewed daily by the Spirit. This renewal empowers us to live in hope, to grow in faith, and to love with Christ's love.

*"Though outwardly we are wasting away,  
yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day"*  
2 Corinthians 4:16

This year, let's set aside the temptation to measure our worth by achievements or worldly standards. Instead, let's rest in the work of Jesus, who renews us by His death and resurrection. Let us draw close to Him through prayer, Scripture, and worship, trusting that He will shape and guide us according to His purpose.

In addition, let us build spiritual habits that nurture our faith and deepen our relationship with God. Daily prayer allows us to commune with Him and seek His guidance. Studying the Bible illuminates His truths and equips us for daily living. Acts of service enable us to reflect Christ's love to others. These habits are not burdens but blessings that help us grow into the people God has called us to be.

May 2025 be a year where we find renewal not in what we do, but in who Christ is. Let us walk boldly into this new season, confident in the truth of His promises and the power of His grace.

In Christ's love and renewal,

*Pastor Ryan Shields*

## Council Minutes: November 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, November 11 at 7:05pm. 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, Janene Lattimore, Kim Traver, Blake Traver, Ben Sutter, Marty Hoeft, Brad Jess, Connie Gahler, Brittany Wittman

### Reports

#### Recording Secretary:

Brad motioned to approve the minutes. Blake 2<sup>nd</sup>. MC.

#### Administrative Assistant + Financial:

Reports were reviewed.

Working on budget for next year.

Blake motioned to accept reports + pay bills, 2nd by Veronica, MC.

#### Pastoral:

October was busy in the church with weddings, funerals + events.

Teaching 6 confirmation students

#### Christian Ed/EFY

Fall Fest went well

Starting to work on the Christmas program. Practices will begin weekly on Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

Prince of Egypt movie night on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm

#### Missions

Doing a coat/hat/glove drive for Toledo Gospel + Susie's Coats

Still looking for an Angel Tree family

### Small Group Updates

Wittman Home Group - Brittany – Going well! Served at Vision Kitchen November 8<sup>th</sup>.

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

### Old Business

2025 Slate of officers. Trustees confirmed. Still working on filling VP, Recording Secretary, Elder, Deacon

Chairs – Detailed discussion about chairs. Veronica motioned to purchase up to \$5,000 of metal chairs. Kim 2<sup>nd</sup>. MC.

Next meeting December, Monday 9 at 7pm.

Kim motioned to adjourn. Blake 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48pm by Eric.

Respectfully submitted by Brittany Wittman, Recording Secretary.

### General Operating Fund

(Council approved 12/08/24)

Beginning Balance 11/01/2024	\$54,801.07
CD Investment	\$1,381.27
Offering/Income	\$14,459.25
Expenses	\$9,294.03
Transfers	(\$739.53)
Balance 11/30/2024	\$60,608.03

FORGET  
THE FORMER THINGS;  
DO NOT DWELL ON THE PAST.  
SEE, I AM DOING A NEW THING!  
NOW IT SPRINGS UP;  
DO YOU NOT PERCEIVE IT?  
I AM MAKING A WAY IN THE DESERT  
AND STREAMS IN THE  
WASTELAND.

• ISAIAH 43:18-19 •

# THANK YOU

Dear Trinity UCC,  
It was so good to see  
all of you this fall.  
It's exciting to see  
how the church is



growing and reaching the community.  
Thank you so much for the generous gift  
to us this Christmas. It is a real help and  
blessing. Together we are helping make Christ's name known among the nations. Have a Merry Christmas!  
~Ben & Mandi Wood

## Those at Genoa Care Center:

Jackie Pelton  
Norma Reif (Assisted Living)

## Those with long-term health concerns:

Don & Bonnie 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  
Henry Noble (leukemia)  
Steve Welling (ALS)



I want to thank the carolers for coming out on such a nasty night. Also thanks for the delicious cookies and treats. I really enjoyed all that. Thanks again, Vi Gahler

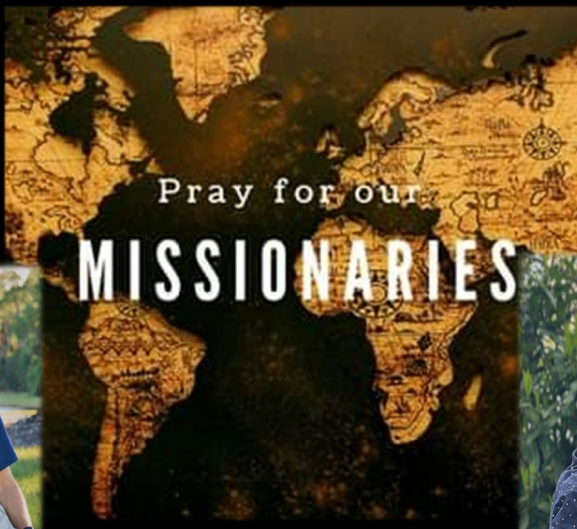
Myron and I would like to thank the singers for the beautiful songs and delicious cookies. We are grateful for a wonderful and loving church family. GOD BLESS. Myron and Sara Zibbel

Thank you so much to everyone at Trinity that assisted with Darrell Opfer's funeral & luncheon. We truly appreciate everyone that helped with the set-up, in the kitchen, brought food, and assisted with clean up. We greatly appreciate those that came to the funeral and also those that generously gave a memorial. A very special thank you to Pastor Ryan for the beautiful service that honored Darrell perfectly. Also, thank you to the organist, church secretary, and person who ran the sound board. Trinity UCC was a vital part of Darrell's life over the years. We appreciate all of the love and support. Blessings to you all. —From the Family of Darrell W. Opfer



Ben & Mandi Wood  
Elliana, Jonathan & Noah

Serving in Florida  
as trainers for 



Jay & Zina Herman  
Ari & Milo

Serving in Slovenia  
through 







**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**

**Saturday, January 4**  
**6:45 pm (arrive)**  
**Bowling @ 7:00 pm**  
**at Interstate Lanes in Rossford**

**Casual, Kid Free Connection Group Meeting Monthly**



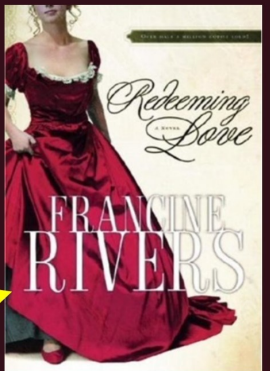
**Annual Reports Due by  
January 5, 2024**

**TRINITY  
WOMEN'S BOOK  
CLUB**

**Thursday, January 9th**  
**6:30 pm @ church**

**Contact Veronica McMonigle with questions**

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




**Annual Congregational**

**MEETING**

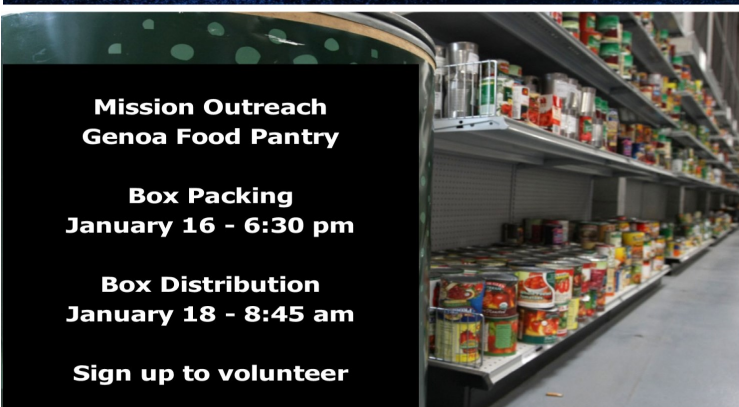
**Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**after the service**



**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

**FOOD x FELLOWSHIP x FAITH**

**January 12th @ 7:30 am**



**Mission Outreach  
Genoa Food Pantry**

**Box Packing**  
**January 16 - 6:30 pm**

**Box Distribution**  
**January 18 - 8:45 am**

**Sign up to volunteer**

**7:00 pm**

**Dartball 2024**

**Tuesday  
Nights**

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



The Genoa Food Pantry is located at the ARC Church inside the old middle school at 303 W 4th Street in Genoa. Use the gym entrance in the back of the building.



**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**



# YOUTH EVENT

January 12

5:00 - 7:00 pm

Middle School & High School

Invite Friends!



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.



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.



## 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



## 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.



## Mission SPOTLIGHT

Mission Spotlight for January will be the Cancer Services of Sandusky. This is a no cost program for cancer patients and their families. They provide nutrition and hydration supplements, transportation for chemo and other cancer related medical appointments, prescription assistance, wig services, mastectomy support and medical equipment.

To give toward this service, 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:

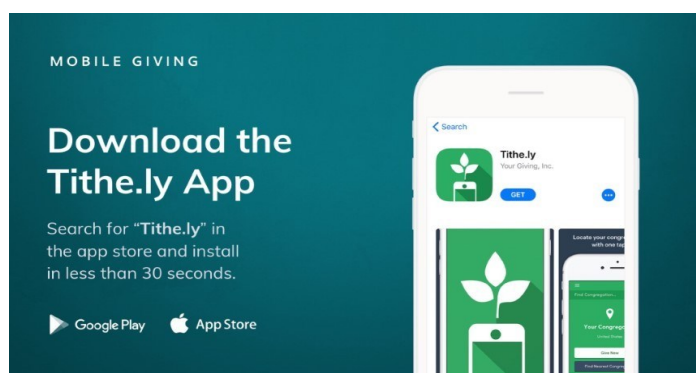
- Give to the church via Sunday offering, US Mail, or drop off (A wooden collection box is located on the wall outside the lower coat room for your convenience throughout the week.)

Giving to your local church using [Tithe.ly](https://www.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://www.tithe.ly) page to set up your one time or recurring contribution.

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

- **Give in App** - Download the [Tithe.ly](https://www.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 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



### 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 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.

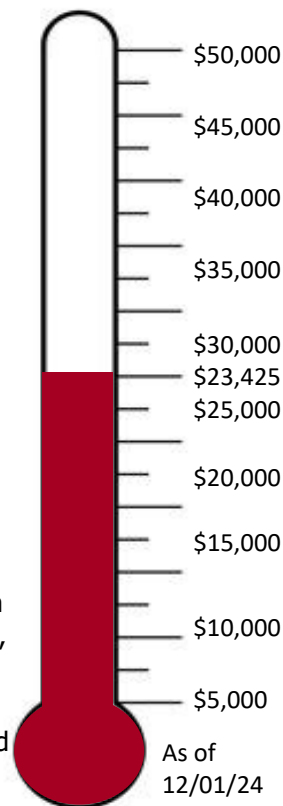
Thank you for faithfully supporting the ministries of Trinity through your prayers & giving!



### 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

## JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>New Year's Day 1</b> Nyla Denman (b) Kevin Gackstetter (b) Diana Tabbert (b) Denny Bowman (b) Sara Tabbert (b) Scott & Analisa Williams (a)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  Ron Blevins (b)	<b>4</b> 6:45 pm Social Group Bowling @ Interstate Lanes Amy Suffer (b) Elly Gilbert (b) Austin Blevins (b)
<b>5</b> 9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Adult CC 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion & Kids Church Hall: Gahler Trustee: Brad Jess	<b>6</b>  Doug Lick (b)	<b>7</b> 8:00 am Coffee Fellowship 7:00 pm Dartball @ Elliston Zion Jacob Helle (b) Jasey Asher (b) Jozey Asher (b)	<b>8</b> 5:30 pm Hall: McCloskey  Jon Drummond (b) Ava Chamberlain (b)	<b>9</b>  6:30 pm Women's Book Group	<b>10</b> Homeschool Co-Op Vision Kitchen Outreach Don Corbin (b) Mackenzie Blevins (b) Emma Rothert (b)	<b>11</b>   Hall: Asher
<b>12</b> 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Adult CC 10:00 am Worship & Kids Church 11:00 am Annual Congregational Meeting 5:00 pm Youth Event Trustee: Marty Hoeff	<b>13</b>  7:00 pm Church Council	<b>14</b> 8:00 am Coffee Fellowship 7:00 pm Dartball @ Elmore St. Paul Methodist Collin Chamberlain (b)	<b>15</b> 5:30 pm Hall: McCloskey  Don Weaver (b) Hannah Mathews (b)	<b>16</b>  6:30 pm Genoa Food Pantry Box Packing	<b>17</b>  Evan Hoeff (b)	<b>18</b> Tidings Info Due  8:45 am Genoa Pantry Box Distribution
<b>19</b> 9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Adult CC 10:00 am Worship & Kids Church  Jessica Asher (b) Trustee: Brandon Kincaid	<b>20</b>  Anna Suffer (b) Logan McCloskey (b)	<b>21</b> 8:00 am Coffee Fellowship 7:00 pm Dartball @ home	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  Christopher Liphart (b)	<b>24</b> Homeschool Co-Op  Janene Latimore (b) Marty & Kristi Hoeff (a)	<b>25</b>  Jamey Tabbert (b)
<b>26</b> 9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Adult CC 10:00 am Worship & Kids Church  Casi Johnson (b) Trustee: Doug Avery	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8:00 am Coffee Fellowship 7:00 pm Dartball @ home  Stephanie Helle (b)	<b>29</b>  Clara Gilbert (b) Julia Gilbert (b)	<b>30</b>  Bennett Gahler (b)	<b>31</b>  Wittman Small Group	

**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](mailto:tucc1862@gmail.com)  
Website: [trinityelliston.org](http://trinityelliston.org)

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