



Tidings

VOLUME 96, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2022

**Sunday School
for kids & adults &
Confirmation classes
@ 9:00 am each week**

**Sunday Worship @
10:00 am each week**

Sermon Series:



November 27th:

The Gift

Frankincense

December 4th:

The Gift

Myrrh

December 11th:

The Gift

Gold

December 18th:

The Children's

Christmas Program

December 24th:

@7:00 PM

The Gift

Jesus

December 25th:

Jammies & Jingles

Christmas Celebration

January 1st:

Minutes 'til Midnight

The Ultimate Gift

It's the gift giving season! Me personally, I'm a terrible gift wrapper! I'll try my hardest and still end up with too much or too little wrapping paper, messy tape lines, and creases all over the place! You'll know a gift is from me, it's either a giant mess or in a bag! For years I even gave up on the practice of wrapping presents. I would just give the gift! No need for the extra layers!

For me, the gift itself is the important part. It's the part I put thought and energy into, trying to find the perfect fit for someone in my life. I know for others, the wrapping itself is a sign of their love and care. But for me, it's what's under the paper that I want the recipient to focus on, not necessarily the bows and boxes.

When I was a rookie youth leader, I actually saw this in action in a hysterical way. Our youth group was having a white elephant gift exchange and all the student circled around waiting for their chance to pick a gift or steal someone else's! Quickly a beautifully wrapped golden gift became the envy of everyone's eye. It has beautiful ribbon, perfectly placed wrapping paper, and a big red bow. It had to be something special we all thought! So each round the next student in line would steal the golden box. Each new student letting out a slight sigh of disappointment as they traded the golden box for dollar store socks, pez dispensers, and hot sauce...along with all the other random goodies that come out during a white elephant gift exchange. Finally, the moment we had been waiting for. The last student who pulled the final number of the lottery. It was his choice to steal any gift or take the last package left in the circle. Without hesitation he slid that last package to the current holder of the golden box and took that beautiful package for his own. As one dejected student opened a \$5 McDonald's gift card our golden box carrying young man smiled with pride ready to open his reward at the end of this long and silly game. He carefully removed the bow, untied the ribbon, slide his finger into the golden packaging to find a cigar box. He smiled again as he opened the lid to find... Manure. One cigar box full of fresh from the farm manure. The youth group erupted with laughter. The person who brought the gift finally let out the belly laugh they had been holding in for thirty minutes. All of sudden the gift card and hot sauce seemed like much better gifts! The package didn't matter, because the inside stunk! It's a reminder of how we treat people! So often focused on all the presentation, all the packaging, creating a pretty box, but inside we stink! We don't love as we ought to, we don't care the way we should.

Even Jesus was subject to this. The Jewish people weren't looking for a baby in a manger to be the Messiah. God's chosen savior was supposed to come as a mighty king, swinging a sword, and leading an army! Or so they thought. Instead, they found an amazing gift in a surprisingly humble package. Not a king. No throne. No white garment. No mighty steed or fiery sword. Just a baby lying in a manger, surrounded by the animals, held in the arms of his mother.

They didn't even know how amazing the gift they received would be. Let us all remember this year the surprising ways that God reveals Himself. It's not always how we'd expect, and it's definitely not always wrapped up in the prettiest package.

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."
- Luke 2:10-11

-Pastor Ryan Shields

Council Minutes: October

The Trinity United Church of Christ, Elliston Church Council met on Monday, November 14, 2022 at 7 pm. Luke Sutter, President, called meeting to order. Pastor Ryan opened with prayer. Those in attendance were as follows: Luke Sutter, Pastor Ryan, Rebecca Reif, Ashley Gahler, Connie Gahler, Steve Turnow, Jim Laughlin, Brice Gahler, Brianne Perry, Nate Diekman, Janene Lattimore, and Mary Muntz

Reports:

Recording Secretary: Meeting minutes from October meeting were read prior to the meeting by members. Motion to accept the minutes was made by first Nate, second by Brianne, MC.

Secretary & Financial Reports:

Reviewed balance sheet. Motion by Brice and second by Nate to approve October balance sheet, MC.

Pastor Report:

Christmas Sunday come in pajamas, casual service
Thanksgiving church potluck on November 27th

Committee Reports:

Worship Team & Church and Ministry - No report

EFY- Branching Out and Thrive

Sunday school is going well, attendance is good

Christmas program rehearsal is in the works, children will practice during children's church and Monday evenings

Mission

Angel tree planning is in the works, family has been selected

Will be volunteering 2 times/year at Genoa Food Pantry. Volunteers needed for December date

Volunteering at Elmore community Thanksgiving dinner

"you've been gifted"

Trustee Report - Snow removal bid

Pastoral Relations Committee - Working on year end things

2030 Team

Met to follow up and discuss town hall meetings

3 areas of growth identified 1) youth 2) small groups 3) community outreach/missions

Recommendation to allow any student being offered a scholarship match from their university to be allowed to use church as a pass through for the benefit of student. Policy will be formally written

Motion to approve scholarship match policy made by a donation to church first by Janene, second by Brice. MC.

Old Business: none currently

New Business.

Janene and Brice offered to fill in as custodians from December 24th-January 4th

Filling council position for 2023

2023 annual meeting date set for January 22 following service. Council meeting immediately following annual meeting

OCWM goal for 2023

Motion first by Brice to remain keep goal at \$600. Second by Jim, MC.

Snow removal bid A&B Lawn Care (same as last year)

\$100 for removal, \$200 if snow is greater than 6 inches

Motion to accept bid first by Steve, second by Connie, MC.

You've Been Gifted

Motion to use balance of TLC fund plus additional funds from chicken BBQ fund for total of \$4000 to use for gifting. Motion by Janene, second by Brice, MC.

Council will be challenging congregation to match this motion for an even greater "you've been gifted" total donation

Discussion of 2023 budget including compensation for Amy, Mary, and Pastor Ryan

Motion to adjourn meeting by first Nate, second by Jim, MC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 by Luke Sutter.

Respectfully submitted, Ashley Gahler, Recording Secretary.

General Operating Fund (Council approved 11/14/22)

Beginning Balance 10/01/2022	\$19,130.72
Offering/Income	\$14,836.73
Expenses	\$11,791.70
Balance 10/31/2022	\$22,185.75

Council meets
at the Church
monthly on the
2nd Monday at
7:00 pm





Be in prayer for the following:

Our Angel Tree Family which is a single mom and seven kids.
 Jamison Zimmerman (pneumonia),
 Elizabeth Ayotte (recovering from a fall)
 Brad Reif (Keaston's uncle, now hospitalized with complications from open heart bypass earlier this summer)
 Emeli Gahler (seizures)
 Myron Zibbel (covid),
 Sara Zibbel (Respiratory illness),
 Chuck & DeannaVizi (severe headaches)

At Genoa Retirement Village:

Jackie Pelton, Norma Reif

Those with long-term health concerns:

Rayna Perry (juvenile diabetes),
 Steve (community member battling ALS),
 Don Weaver, Don Hoeft, Joel Marquart,
 Riley & Ren Baumert,

Those battling cancer:

Dustin Schmidt, Jackie Pelton, Logan Murphy



In order to be credited to 2022 contributions, all checks must be received at the church office on or before January 5, 2023. Checks need to be dated on or prior to December 31, 2022. Funds received after January 5, 2023 will be credited to the 2023 giving year.



Offering Booklets for 2023

will be available November 13th. If you currently do not have a set but would like one for the new year, contact the church office at 419-862-3417 / tucc1862@gmail.com



Christmas Funds

During December our Mission Spotlight will be put toward the Christmas Fund.

The Christmas Fund will provide for three avenues of mission outreach: The Angel Tree and our end of the year Benevolence.

To give to this fund simply write "Mission Spotlight" on your envelope or check memo.



Now available in the north lobby

Gift suggestions are on the ornaments.



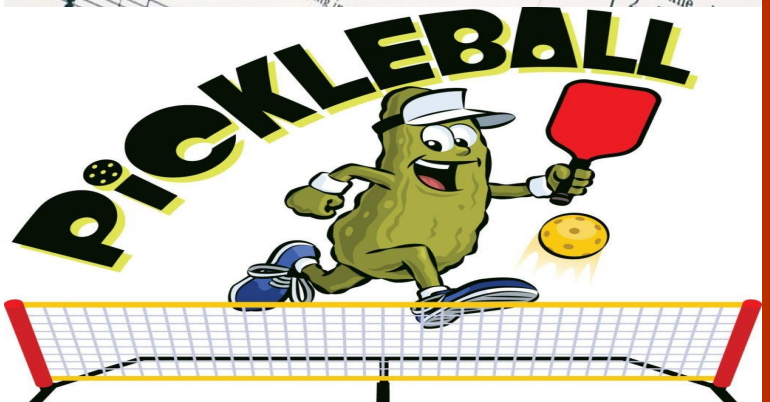
Special Music needed for Christmas Eve

Sign up with Pastor Ryan

WORSHIP HOSTS NEEDED

Contact the church office if you would like to serve as a worship host for one of our upcoming Sunday Services.

Duties would include keeping the service moving along by introducing our speaker while Pastor Ryan is away, calling for the offering to be collected, and saying a prayer.



Now at 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 info.



Church Dartball: Tuesday Nights

- December 6th @ home vs Rocky Ridge Lutheran
- December 13th @ home vs Elmore St. Paul Methodist
- January 3rd @ Genoa St. John's UCC
- January 10th @ Millbury St Paul Methodist
- January 17th @ home vs Williston St. John Lutheran
- January 24th @ home vs Oak Harbor St. Paul UCC
- January 31st Bye week
- February 7th @ Millbury St. Peter UCC
- February 14th @ home vs Elliston Zion UMC
- February 21st @ Rocky Ridge Lutheran
- February 28th @ Elmore St. Paul Methodist
- March 7th @ home vs Genoa St. John's UCC
- March 11th All Day Tournament @ Graytown School
- March 14th Make Up Games
- April 4th Banquet @ Ole Zims, 6:30 pm



Holiday Choir Concert

December 11 at 6:30pm: Free Dress Rehearsal

December 12 at 7pm: \$3

Oak Harbor High School

General Admission is 6:30pm. Boosters enter at 6:15.

With featured songs like "All I Want for Christmas is You", "Jingle Bells" and "Five-Sided S'Vivon," this concert has something for everyone and promises to lift up your spirits.

"I never though it was a bad little tree... maybe it just needed a little love." ~Linus

Brought to you by: OHHS Choirs



<https://sites.google.com/site/oakharborchoirs/>



December 18th @ 4:00 pm
Donations of Cookies will be needed



You've Been Gifted Outreach

Saturday, December 3rd

2:00 to 6:00 pm

This event will include our students carpooling into the community to gift people and share God's love for Christmas. Pray for our students as they go and also for those who will receive these blessings.

Thank you to all who gave financially toward the matching challenge! \$2070 was raised to add to the church funds allocated for a total of \$6,070! May God use these funds for His glory and honor!



Christmas Eve
Service

7:00 pm

December 25th & January 1st

No Sunday School
Or
Branching Out

JAMMIES & JINGLES

Christmas Day @ 10

Coffee Fellowship

Tuesdays

8:00 am

Everyone
Welcome!

Sunday, January 22, 2023

ANNUAL
MEETING

Reports due by January 10th.

Printed Directory

Updated Directory Lists are available from the church office electronically. Printed copies are also available upon request. Call or email Mary to request a copy (419-862-3417 / tucc1862@gmail.com)



Children's Ministry Volunteers Fall Quarter 2022

Sunday School | 9:00 AM

PreK	Janene Lattimore
K-2nd	Kylene Liphart
Thrive (3rd-5th Grade)	Jan Corbin
Confirmation	Pastor Ryan (6th-8th Grade)
Adult Classes	Sarah Edwards Rev. Don Corbin

Branching Out Children's Church | 10:00 AM

(Rotating Teachers Each week of the month)

Nursery (2's & 3's):

- week 1 - Ashley Gahler / Nancy Turnow
- week 2 - Jennifer Laughlin / **ASSISTANT NEEDED**
- week 3 - Faith Sutter / Elishia Sutter / Sophie Sutter / Amy Sutter
- week 4 - Rebecca Reif / **ASSISTANT NEEDED**

PreK-2nd Grade:

- Week 1 Veronica McMonigle / Ashley Zimmerman
- Week 2 - Casi Johnson / Emily Burcin
- Week 3 - **TEACHER & ASSISTANT NEEDED FOR THIS WEEK**
- Week 4 - Kim Drummond / Dawn Kovac

Let the church office know if you'd like to fill an open spot!



Greeter Schedule

Team A:

(1st Sunday every month & July 30, 2023)

- Dan Mathews
- Brad Jess
- Ed and Jane Gahler
- Nate Diekman
- Nyla Denman

Team B:

(2nd Sunday every month & October 30, 2022)

- Matt and Casi Johnson
- Eric and Ashley Gahler
- Doug & Tammy Asher
- Blair Drummond
- Bella Hall

Team C:

(3rd Sunday every month & January 29, 2023)

- Mike and Ann Diekman
- Troy & Brittany Wittman Family
- Brianne Perry

Team D:

(4th Sunday every month & April 30, 2023)

- Jay & Joanne Hellwig
- Jim and Jen Laughlin
- Keaston & Rebecca Reif Family

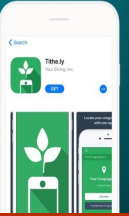
There is still room on some of our greeter teams for you! Contact the church office and we will assign you a team to on which you can serve.

MOBILE GIVING

Download the
Tithe.ly App

Search for "Tithe.ly" in
the app store and install
in less than 30 seconds.

Google Play App Store



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, as listed below:

#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!

Trinity UCC

DECEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Watch the Service Online http://www.trinityelliston.org/livestream.html</p>						
<p>2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Classes 10:00 am Worship & Kids Church Greeters: Team A / Trustee: Brice Gabler Doug & Tammy Asher (A)</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 8:00 am Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>7 Anna Markley (B) Kitchen: Wetzel Gym: 6:00-7:30 pm Basketball Clinic</p>	<p>8 Kerigan Sager (B)</p>	<p>9 Hall: Ayotte</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>3rd Sunday of Advent 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Classes 10:00 am Worship & Kids Church Greeters: Team B / Trustee: Steve Turnow All Church Christmas Caroling Hall: Wasserman Jackie Pelton (B)</p>	<p>12 7:00 pm Church Council Jeffrey Bast (B) Ray & Ann David (A)</p>	<p>13 8:00 am Coffee Fellowship Tiffany Hernandez (B)</p>	<p>14 Dale Bodnar (B)</p>	<p>15 Fay Bolander (B) Rhonda Mahaney (B)</p>	<p>16 Lindsay Hansen-Jones (B) Trent & Julie Rothert (A)</p>	<p>17 Hall: Hoeft Ann Schimming (B) Gary Jabbert (B)</p>
<p>4th Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Classes 10:00 am Children's Sunday School Program 4:00 pm Christmas Caroling Greeters: Team C / Trustee: Jim Laughlin</p>	<p>19 Christmas Day</p>	<p>20 8:00 am Coffee Fellowship Tidings Information Due</p>	<p>21 Carleigh Jabbert (B) Michael Jabbert (B)</p>	<p>22 Mike & Stephanie Jabbert (A)</p>	<p>23 Sara Zibbel (B)</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service</p>
<p>Christmas Day No Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Classes 10:00 am Worship (No Kids Church today) Greeters: Team D / Trustee: Brice Gabler Mike Diekmann (B) Ron Ayotte (B)</p>	<p>26 Hall: Oqfer Robin Hansen (B)</p>	<p>27 8:00 am Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>28 Kristie Gallagher (B)</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 New Year's Eve</p>	<p>31</p>

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



trinity
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YouTube: [TrinityElliston](https://YouTube.com/TrinityElliston)
Livestream: trinityelliston.org/livestream

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