

THE LINK

FEBRUARY 2012 ~ TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ~ 330.334.2536



LENT - 2012

The Sign of Jonah



Jonah ... for Lent? Sounds fishy, but it's a natural fit. When the Jews asked Jesus for a sign, he said, "I will give you only the sign of Jonah." After three days in the belly of the earth, Jesus rose with news of God's prodigal grace. This series of special services for Lent explores the meaning of "The Sign Jonah" as we follow Jonah on his journey ... and Jesus on his way to the cross.



Trinity United Church of Christ

*exists to share the love
of God within our
community and beyond*

LENTEN LUNCHESES - 2012

The Wadsworth Ministerial Association will sponsor a series of Lenten Lunches on Wednesdays from February 29 - April 4. This year's lunches will again take place at Grace Lutheran Church. The worship services begin at 12:05 p.m. with lunch to follow. This year's theme is "Christ in the Strangest Places".

WORSHIP @ TRINITY CHURCH

February 2012
10:30 every Sunday
Childcare available through Kindergarten

February 5, 2012 - Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians
9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

“Sustaining Ministry”

Rev. Daniel J. Doty

February 12, 2012 - Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27;
Mark 1:40-45

“Healing Presence”

Rev. Daniel J. Doty

February 19, 2012 - Transfiguration Sunday
2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6;
Mark 9:2-9

“Thin Places”

Rev. Daniel J. Doty

February 22, 2012 - Ash Wednesday - 7:30pm
Jonah 1.1-3

“The Sign of Jonah: God is Calling”

Rev. Daniel J. Doty

February 26, 2012 - First Sunday in Lent
Jonah 1.4-16

“The Sign of Jonah: Saved in the Storm”

Rev. Daniel J. Doty

HIPPIES

Thanks, kids and parents for your patience as we have altered rooms and songs to accommodate my ankle injury. We are keeping our original schedule, so February 19th is our next time to sing. Your beautiful voices lift our spirits during these dark winter months!

February 19 April 1 - Palm Sunday
March 18 April 22
May 20 - Music Sun.

ACOLYTES

5 Nick Vaccaro & Aaron Uhl
12 Kate Klika & Cassie Holzworth
19 Madison Burns & Rachel Haire
26 Allison Vaccaro & Taylor Nagy



MINISTER'S MUSINGS



Sabbatical - a Definition

*"A set, intentional
time for rest,
renewal, inspiration
and re-creation."*

Of the many questions that Church & Ministry has been dealing with in the lead up to my sabbatical is "What will happen here at Trinity?"

Church & Ministry has been focusing on the needs of the church while I am away. We consider the two main areas that need to be covered will be pastoral care (hospital/home visits, crisis care, counseling, funerals, etc.) and worship leadership. I have been speaking with my colleagues in the Ministerial Association about their willingness to "cover" for me. I believe that utilizing local clergy who will know the "lay of the land" and perhaps many of you will know might make it easier to have them cover for me. I asked if they might consider taking two weeks at a time so that we don't have quite so many pastoral care givers to remember. It will be our goal to have a list stating exactly who is covering which weeks.

We haven't made any decisions about worship leadership. Perhaps some in the church would like to come forward and share their faith journey? You don't need to give a "sermon". You could simply share a favorite verse and what it means to you, or a challenging time that you got through because of the help of your church family or a significant friend. As Christians called to share the love of God with all whom we meet - we should not fear telling others about our faith.

Please prayerfully consider over the next few months how you can help with our corporate worship this summer.

Grace for the journey,

**Senior Pastor*
Rev. Daniel J. Doty
ddoty@ucctrinity.com
Cell phone: 330-338-1176

**Administrative Assistant*
Cheryl Powers
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**Director of Music*
Ann Hudson
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Staff Directory

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Kelly Weber
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**Organist, AGO*
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kekaki@excite.com

**Children's Choir Director*
Jennifer Klika
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**Custodian*
Kevin Weltzien
trinity@ucctrinity.com

**Mission Developer*
Rev. Tom Gerstenlauer
revtgerst@gmail.com
(from Miller Ave. UCC)

MISSION NEWS



Thank you to all who joined us for December's Lunch & Learn featuring Market Path, a fair-

trade store in West Akron. We raised \$45 dollars from your purchases and we sent this money on to Tom Gerstenlauer. Be on the lookout for info regarding the next Lunch & Learn opportunity!



We have received the 2012 schedule for the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen; we staff the Monday of the last full week of each month. Please consider helping with this important ministry.



Meeting emergency needs
and nurturing long-term recovery



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
BLANKETS+

888-297-2767
www.churchworldservice.org

Blankets+

Our special collection in January, through February 19th, is for Blankets+, a program through Church World Service. Blankets+ is a special mission opportunity for all ages. Some 8,000 congregations and groups across the U.S. hold CWS Blankets+ events, providing funds to help people in need around the world, including the U.S. For over 60 years, Church World Service has

worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including: blankets, tents, food, tools, seeds, wells and literacy training. Please give as you are able - You are the + in Blankets+ !

Lenten Sacrificial Offering

Lastly, we will again be supporting the Lenten Sacrificial Offering, splitting the funds between Miller Avenue and Willard Food Pantry. The collection will run from February 26th through Easter, April 8th.

CE NEWS

Drop-n-Dine

The Board of Christian Education is hosting a "Drop-N-Dine" from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. on Friday, February 10th! Parents are welcome to drop off their children, ages 2 and up in the New Fellowship Hall.

We will be enjoying pizza and fun activities while you enjoy some time together! This is a fundraiser for our Youth Group's upcoming mission trip. We are requesting a minimum donation of \$8 (per family), and the proceeds will help cover mission trip costs. Our Youth Group kids will be helping us have fun with the children!



'Souper' Bowl of Caring ~ Sunday, February 5th ~ the Jr/Sr High Kids will be out in the Narthex after Church with big pots collecting money to help feed the hungry, please

help us fill those pots!



This Month:

Cereal Sunday

On Feb. 12th please bring a box of cereal to Sunday School to help our Church's efforts to stock Williard Food Pantry's shelves!

Thank You

Bring a Friend to Church!

We are encouraging everyone to bring a Friend to Faith Formation and Church on Sunday, February 26th!

H.I.P.P.I.E.S., Puppets & Kid's Club

Our H.I.P.P.I.E.S. will be singing during the service on February 19th! We will also get to see the Puppets (4th – 7th graders) that day! After that the 2nd – 7th grade children are invited back to the Kid's Club Room for a Kid's Club meeting.

LINK Deadlines:

March Issue - February 19

April Issue - March 18

Saturday, February 18
8:00 am - Fellowship Hall
RSVP to Dan (so he can plan enough food!)

ddoty@ucctrinity.com



THANK YOU

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

"Our family would like to thank members and friends for all the beautiful cards and the outpouring of sympathy and concern for us. We were truly amazed at the love shown in our time of need."

Thank you, Helen Moser

Thank you all so much for the hugs, cards and kind words of sympathy after the death of my father

Love you all, Susie Schneeberger

The Koinonia Board would like to thank all those who shared their Nativity scenes for the Creche Walk on December 18. We know, from the past, that everyone seems to enjoy this event, especially visitors coming for the concert.

December 2011 - Receipts & Expenses

	For December 2011	As of December 31, 2011
Receipts	\$29,553.19	\$278,593.68
Expenses	\$28,098.92	\$272,418.10

December's credit was \$1,454.27 making the year to date credit \$6,175.58. Our 2010 deficit for the year was (\$11,035.38) so the total deficit is (\$4,859.80). Since the closing of the 2011 books someone came forward with a donation of \$4,900! **Thanks to all who helped erase our debt and help us start 2012 with a positive balance.**

- Receipts needed per week: \$5,082.87
- Receipts needed for month: \$20,331.48
- Monthly expense per budget: \$21,048.32
- Expenses for month of December: \$28,098.92

The 2012 budget was passed at the Annual Meeting. The total budget was set at \$275,117.00. With the passage of this budget we will be able to present a tithe to the Mission Board who will work on our behalf to reach out with the love of God and give the staff a cost of living adjustment. While this budget ultimately is not in deficit there is about \$15,000 leap of faith built into the expected revenues. Let's keep up the faithful giving during 2012 so this leap of faith becomes our journey into God's future!

CONSISTORY NEWS

George Steele - President; - President-Elect; **Ron Potter** - Treasurer; **Debbie McGraw** - Secretary; **Nila McCullough** -At-Large/Delegate; **Marsha Blyth** - At-Large/Delegate; - **Patty Barrett** - Christian Education; **Janet Linsmaier** - Koinonia; **Melanie McIntyre** - Christian & Ministry; **Harriet Darmour** - Mission; Music & Fine Arts; - Stewardship; **Doug Linsmaier** - Trustees; **Daniel Doty** - Senior Minister.

The Stewardship Board presented the 2012 budget. In order to propose it as a non-deficit budget there was another 0% raise proposed for the staff. After much discussion it was decided to give the staff a 3% cost of living adjustment. This necessitated removing that same 3% somewhere else in the budget. It was decided to remove it from the Benevolence area of the budget. This is just a suggestion and it will be up to the congregation at the Annual Meeting to decide what to do.

It was also revealed that a last minute donor presented a \$4900.00 check which totally wiped out the deficit and gave us a positive balance to start off 2012! In other business the boards presented their reports for the month. Average Sunday morning attendance in worship for the month of December: 140

BIRTHDAYS CHURCH CANCELLATION

1	Sebastian Hale	15	Sue Cleckner
2	Fred Parker		Mickey Parker
	Stephanie Blake	16	Jenny Ziraks
	Michael McCullough		Ann Hudson
3	Chris Scranton	17	Myron Farnsworth
	Julie Baxendell		Beth Blake
4	Eleni Kiouis		Linda
5	Jim Dennison		Riemenschneider
	Sue Kauffman	18	Jeannie Kirkpatrick
6	Martha Young		Tom Uhl
7	Cathy Park	21	Doris Potter
9	Aly Stano		Paul Vaughn
10	Lois Edge		Debbie McGraw
12	Susan Todoroff		Grace Barrett
	Jeff Hanna	24	Peg Kochy
13	Kevin Johnson	25	Debbie Lorincz
14	Shirley Knierien	27	Zach McGraw



New Arrival!

Charles Amevor & Nila McCullough-Amevor welcomed a new great grandchild - Ellianna Marie McCullough on Jan 3, 2012. Proud parents are Michael McCullough and Mallory Jodon.



Please note the following information:

In the event of a Level 2 or 3 snow emergency, the following procedures will be put in place. The Senior Minister in conjunction with the President of Consistory will make the decision to close if necessary. Any closing will be noted on WCTV (local cable) and WEWS, Channel 5 and radio stations WAKR (1590 AM) and WKSU (89.7 FM). A cancellation message will also be posted on the church website. Consistory representatives will contact their board members and all staff will be notified. Congregation members are encouraged to contact their friends and relatives to alert them of the closing.



TRINITY UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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“Thank You” from Charles Amevor

I just want to say a big thank you for your show of love and support towards me, and standing firm by me in time of grief during the recent auto accident that involved my folks in Ghana.

I thank you all so much for your prayer concerns, time taken to send information to others, for your care and your money donations even in this critical economic condition prevailing here, all towards the welfare of the victims. Thank you so much.

I can not say thank you enough, but the God we worship, whose words never falter will replenish your coffers pressed down, overflowing abundantly, according to His blessings.

Thank you all; my people back home in Ghana are everyday, every time, saying, “Thank you much.”