

THE LINK

MARCH 2012 ~ TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ~ 330.334.2536



NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Trinity church will be holding a series of New Member classes this March. Those who are interested in membership at

Trinity church will gather at 9:15

am on Sunday mornings - March 11th & 18th. Classes will center on the history of the UCC and Trinity Church as well as local church governance. These classes will meet in the Library. On March 25th the new members candidates will enjoy a continental breakfast and meet our Consistory members in the Fellowship Hall. New Member Sunday will be on Palm Sunday, April 1st. The new members will join Trinity Church that day and be our guests at the Palm Sunday Potluck and Easter Egg Hunt. Please see Rev. Doty if you are interested in joining or know someone who is - or better yet invite someone you know to join!



Trinity United Church of Christ

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

LENTEN LUNCHESES - 2012

Wednesdays, February 29 - April 4 at Grace Lutheran Church
12:05 p.m. with lunch to follow

WORSHIP @ TRINITY CHURCH

March 2012

10:30 every Sunday

Childcare available through Kindergarten

March 4, 2012 - Second Sunday in Lent

Jonah 1.1-17; Matthew 14.14-21

“The Sign of Jonah: Our Providing God”

Rev. Daniel J. Doty

March 11, 2012 - Third Sunday in Lent

Jonah 2; Matthew 7.1-11

“The Sign of Jonah: Praying from the Belly of the Great Big Fish”

Rev. Daniel J. Doty

March 18, 2012 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Jonah 3.1-4; Matthew 8.5-13

“The Sign of Jonah: The God of the Second Chance”

Rev. Daniel J. Doty

March 25, 2012 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jonah 3.5-10; Matthew 20.1-16

“The Sign of Jonah: About Face!”

Rev. Daniel J. Doty

Salvation Army Cooking

At the Salvation Army on the last full week of the month, Trinity Church is responsible for cooking a meal on Mondays from 3:00-5:00 pm. Three people are needed with this effort. (We do not cook on the Mondays before Thanksgiving and Christmas.) Please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex to help with this important ministry. If you have any questions please see Harriet Darmour who is serving as the coordinator from our Mission Board.

HIPPIES

I'd say we're in the home stretch for this year - can you believe it??? We have three more times to share our music this year - March 18th, April 1st (Palm Sunday), and May 20th (Music Sunday). Please try to be here for those dates! We'll have drums, flutes and bells to finish off the year!

ACOLYTES

- 4 Claudia Skoglund & Lexie Steele
- 11 Kaetlyn Doty & Aaron Uhl
- 18 Nick Vaccaro & Kate Klika
- 25 Jill Klika & Madison Burns



MINISTER'S MUSINGS



Lent

“Again we keep this solemn fast, a gift of faith from ages past, this Lent which binds us lovingly, to faith and hope and charity.”

Gregory the Great (540-604) is often credited as the author of this Latin text beginning with the phrase “Ex more docti

mystic.” The text has been found in various manuscripts, the earliest dating from the tenth century. The English translation was made by Peter J. Scagnelli (b. 1949).

While one can make an argument that we should be bound to live in faith and hope and charity everyday, this text reminds us that it is once again time to keep the “solemn fast.” It is time to center our minds and souls on the journey Jesus makes to the cross.

I recently spent a Saturday morning with our confirmands. We made a list of what it means to belong to one of their clubs (e.g. they gather, they have rules in their club, they have activities, etc.) Then we talked about what we do as a church (e.g. we gather, have a set of church by-laws, have activities, etc.) So I asked what was the difference. We began to talk about the centuries of history we have as a people of faith and the book we call our “rule” book.

In this book we find not only rules but the story of a man who lived among us and tried to teach us how much God loves us. And if that wasn't enough he dared to tell us we had to love others with the same unconditional love with which God loves. Part of the story is tragic if not downright grotesque. The world apparently didn't want to hear this message. The powers that be couldn't comprehend that there was another supreme ruler - a creative God who brought the world into being that we should give our allegiance to.

So yes - we keep a solemn fast and remember that this Lent binds us lovingly a charity that needs to be shown forth in our lives. That too is a part of being a member of our “club.”

Grace for the journey,

*Senior Pastor

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

*Administrative Assistant

Cheryl Powers
trinity@ucctrinity.com or
cpowers@ucctrinity.com
(financial only)

*Director of Music

Ann Hudson
anncoxhudson@hotmail.com

Staff Directory

*Supervisor of Sunday School

Kelly Weber
ksweber24@gmail.com

*Organist, AGO

Dale Guiley
kekaki@excite.com

*Children's Choir Director

Jennifer Klika
jen.klika@gmail.com

*Custodian

Kevin Weltzien
trinity@ucctrinity.com

*Mission Developer

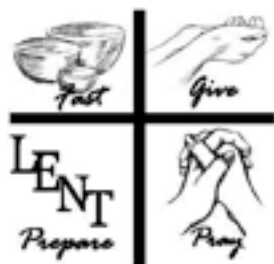
Rev. Tom Gerstenlauer
revtgerst@gmail.com
(from Miller Ave. UCC)

MISSION NEWS



Join us down in Fellowship Hall for the next Lunch & Learn on

Sunday, March 18th. Enjoy a fulfilling lunch while filling your hearts and minds with information about the Williard Food Pantry. Maybe you'll learn some new details or be inspired help in a new way! After your fellowship time at Coffee Hour come down and enjoy some more food and fellowship at the Lunch and Learn!



Please remember our Lenten Sacrificial Offering. Each week, we ask that you consider giving up one meal and offering the cost of that meal to our two food ministries. How better can we understand the situations of those who live in our midst without regular meals?

Offering baskets will be located throughout the sanctuary every Sunday during Lent. Thank you for your generosity!



One Great Hour of Sharing

On March 18th, we will be collecting our offering for One Great Hour of Sharing. One Great Hour of Sharing, the refugee, relief and development offering of the United Church of Christ,

transforms lives through health, education, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries. Please prayerfully consider this and give as you are able.



Trinity will be sponsoring Lunch On Us, at Miller Avenue, on Saturday, April 21st, instead of Fifth Sunday on April 29th (in addition to June 30th, July 28th and December 22nd).

CE NEWS

Camp Sunday

Camp Sunday will be March 4th! During Faith Formation the children will find out about Summer Camp and then during Church there will be a special collection to help our children attending camp with their fees! Joyce Oyler, Director of Outdoor Ministries for the Ohio Conference will be our special guest on that day.



This Month:

Cereal Sunday

On March 11th 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, March 4th!

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 March 18th! 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.

VBS 2012

This summer Vacation Bible School will be held Monday, June 11th through Friday, June 15th from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. for children ages 4 years old – 6th grade! Friends are welcome to join us! Our theme will be Son Canyon River Adventure! We will begin creating decorations soon. If you would like to help with any part of Vacation Bible School (before, during or after!) please let Kelly Weber know ~ she appreciates any and all help!



LINK Deadlines:

April Issue - March 18

May Issue - April 15

Saturday, March 17
8:00 am - Fellowship Hall
RSVP to Dan (so he can plan enough food!)

ddoty@ucctrinity.com



THANK YOU

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Dear Church Family. I write to you with such a grateful heart for all you thoughtfulness, phone calls, cards, visits, delicious meals, acts of love, and prayers during my recent illness. I wish I could express to you all the love I experienced from you my church family. It certainly helps to renew and lift up one's spirits. A thank you goes to Pastor Dan for his visits. I am so blessed to be a part of the Trinity Church family. God bless you all, Paul Vaughn

A note to thank all of my Trinity family and friends for your thoughts, prayers, and telephone calls during my recent hip surgery and recovery. I appreciate Rev. Doty stopping by to deliver the altar flowers, visit and have a moment of prayer with me. Thank you also to Harriet and Barb for your warm conversations, delicious treats and longtime friendships. Your prayers were and continue to be a huge part of my recovery and I truly appreciate your concerns and thoughtfulness. Karen Lapidakis

A LOOK *at the* BUDGET

January 2012 - Receipts & Expenses

For January 2012	As of January 31, 2012
Receipts \$28,232.21	\$28,232.21
Expenses \$22,024.02	\$22,024.02

January's credit was \$6,208.19 making the year to date credit \$6,208.19. As you recall someone within the Trinity Church family came forward with a donation of \$4,900 to completely eliminate our debt at the end of last year! **Thanks to this and all who helped erase our debt we move forward confidently into God's future!**

Receipts needed per month to meet the budget: \$21,197.52

CONSISTORY NEWS

George Steele - President; **Ron Potter** - Treasurer; **Debbie McGraw** - Secretary; **Nila McCullough** - At-Large/ Delegate; **Mickey Parker** - At-Large/Delegate; **Patty Barrett** - Christian Education; **Janet Linsmaier** - Koinonia; **Bob Park** - Christian & Ministry; **Harriet Darmour** - Mission; **Tricia Burns** - Music & Fine Arts; - Stewardship; **Doug Linsmaier** - Trustees; **Daniel Doty** - Senior Minister.

The Consistory of Trinity Church met on February 14th. President George Steele opened the meeting but due to the flu had to leave the meeting early. The Consistory welcomed new board representatives from the various boards. The Boards gave their monthly reports and answered any questions on items that needed clarification.

Church and Ministry asked for input on Rev. Doty's upcoming sabbatical. One idea discussed was having each board take a Sunday and help lead the service. This might include lay preaching or guest preachers. The boards will talk about this at their next meeting.

Average Sunday morning attendance in worship for the month of January: 122

BIRTHDAYS CHURCH CANCELLATION



1	Chase Blake	Patricia Uhl
	Ben Heiden	Alison Blake
	Dick Rybolt	
	Claudia Scranton	15 Lexi Steele
3	Renee Skoglund	17 Sandra True
	Matthew Shipe	Toby Blake
		Kelsey Johnson
4	Parson Nagy	18 Eric Hevener
5	Amanda Gregory	19 Linda Farnsworth
6	Evelyn Bauer	20 Lucyle Rich
7	Judy Ridgley	Meredith Van
	Alan McGrew	Dyke
8	Roger Blake	21 Ken True
9	Madison Burns	22 Aaron Uhl
	Karen Lapidakis	24 Nicholas Ballway
10	Bill Bauer	Cindy Koontz
11	George Queen	George Steele
	Heather	
	McCullough	26 Karlie Koontz
12	Clarence Ruch	27 David Brewster
	Sarah Salmasian	28 Pat Livingston
	Cameron Ryan	29 Merdine Gwin
		Owen Yerkey
13	Dwight Powers	30 Irene Graham
	Pam Shipe	Tom Hale
	Zachary Orr	Sandy Heimbach
	Tessa Blake	Meghan Parker
14	Aaron Scranton	31 Gael Mericle

Look Who's 95!

This month Lucyle Rich and Merdine Gwin both turn 95. If you would like to send them a special card you may obtain their addresses from the office.



Please note the following information:

Any closing will be noted on WCTV (local cable) and WEWS, Channel 5 and radio stations WAKR (1590 AM) and WKSU (89.7 FM). Congregation members are encouraged to contact their friends and relatives to alert them of the closing.

Church Parking

The line of parking slots closest to the street at the lot in front of the Save-a-Lot grocery store have for a long time been available for church parking on Sundays. The Save-a-Lot is open for business on Sunday mornings. Though we may not use this regularly please remember it only to slots closest to the road that are available to us.



TRINITY UNITED
 CHURCH OF CHRIST
 215 High Street
 Wadsworth, OH 44281

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Wadsworth, Ohio 44281
 Permit No. 38

Address Label Here

2012 - Easter Flowers (\$7.00 each)

Lily ____ Tulip ____ Hyacinth ____ (Indicate on line number you want)

Your Name: _____ Given: In Memory of: In Honor of:
 (Check which one applies)

Name(s) for bulletin: _____

I will: leave my flowers for the homebound take them with me after the service
 (Check which one applies)

Total # ordered: ____ x \$7:00 = ____ Paid (Payment is expected with order.)



Orders will be taken in the church office until March 26 and in the narthex on March 11, 18 & 25

PRAYER LIST (KNOWN AS OF FEBRUARY 19)

Removed for Web Publication

If a church member would like a copy of the prayer list - please email Rev. Doty for a copy

ddoty@ucctrinity.com

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Consistory Officers

President	George Steele	Treasurer	Ron Potter
President-Elect		Delegate-at-Large	Nila McCullough-Amevor
Secretary	Debbie McGraw	Delegate-at-Large	Mickey Parker

Church & Ministry

Responsible for decisions concerning clergy personnel, worship ideas, and communication with the congregation

Melanie McIntyre	Bob Park	Bill Orr
RJ Nagy	Cathy Park	Dwight Powers
Louise Cook	Bob Heimbach	Debbie Lorincz

Christian Education

Responsible for overseeing youth, curriculum for all ages, and most educational opportunities.

Kris Beddow	Patty Barrett	Kelly Daw
Lisa Nagy	Babs Uhl	Debbie Holzworth
Jan Johnston	Nancy Brewster	

Koinonia

Responsible for fellowship activities, community events, and public relations

Jan LoGuidice	Peg Kochy	Barbara Kaiser
Sue Moore	Jennifer Lorenz	Dick Kaiser
Sue Cleckner	Janet Linsmaier	Bill Lorenz

Mission

Responsible for our mission outreach

Maureen Cope	Jeannie Kirkpatrick	Marsha Blyth
Tomasena Ross	Jennifer Klika	
Harriet Darmour	Nila McCullough-Amevor	

Music & Fine Arts

Responsible for music ministry, décor decisions for the church, seasonal flowers

Susie Schneeberger	Tricia Burns	Mary Friedley
Julie Shorie	Doris Potter	Carol McIlvaine
Paul Vaughn	Barbara Sabett	Judy Woolsey

Stewardship

Responsible for the financial ministry

Matt Harding	Gael Mericle	David Blatter
Richard Hontert	Mickey Parker	Chuck Johnston
Ron Potter	Rod Skoglund	Paul Livingston

Trustees

Responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the building

Doug Linsmaier	Joe Klish
Scott McMillen	Karl Schneeberger
Dave McGraw	Tom Uhl

This "pull out" section is for you to keep on hand all year long!

TRINITY IS BIG ON MISSIONS!

Have you seen our Trinity UCC website? If not, take a look. There is a tab entitled “Reaching Out”. When you open this tab the first thing you see is “At Trinity Church we are Big on Mission”. In the paragraph that follows this statement, you and any visitor to our website can read about some of the mission work we participate in. It ends with “We are always finding ways to love our neighbors because we’re Big on Mission.” I believe we can all (including myself) agree this paragraph defines part of our church identity, giving to worthy causes helping needy people. Do you as a member of Trinity UCC truly know how “Big on Mission” we really are?

I would guess most of us don’t, unless you take the time to look at the numbers. One place to look is the 2011 Annual Report containing the 2011 year-end Financial Statement. There are several areas in both reports that allow us to review the amount of financial support Trinity UCC gives to worthy causes helping needy people, in other words “Big on Mission”.

The first area to look at is the 2011 Mission Board budget. The budget amount allocated to the Mission Board as part of the 2011 budget was \$26,000. As listed in the line items under Benevolences in the budget this money was distributed to OCWM, CUE, Miller Ave. UCC, and other misc. benevolences. All of these are worthy causes helping needy people. \$25,605 was distributed. Total distributed in 2011 so far: \$25,605.

The second area to look at is in the Financial Statement under “Designated Benevolences (pass through items)”. “Pass through” means money is collected for a designated project and whatever the amount is that is collected gets paid out to the designated project. None of this money was part of the \$26,000 Mission Board budget. If you look at the Financial Statement, you will see that there was a carry over from 2010 of \$6,318.30. There is an itemized list of the projects for which donations were given in 2011. All of these are worthy causes helping needy people. The amount of donations given is listed under “Receipts” and totaled \$14,656.43. With the carryover and the donations given, \$20,974.73 was available to distribute. If you look at the “Expenditures” you will see that \$15,078.68 was actually distributed. Total distributed in 2011 so far: \$40,683.68.

The “cash value” in the third area of donations is not so easy to calculate. However, there is a “cash value” associated with these donations and does need to be included in the total financial support given from Trinity UCC. Look through each monthly LINK and each Sunday bulletin. Every month and each Sunday we were asked to financially contribute to a worthy cause helping needy people. We gave generously to: the Summer Lunch Program; we collected food and non-food items for the Williard Food Pantry, the Salvation Army, and Marion’s Closet; we collected a Lenten Sacrificial Offering for Miller Ave. UCC and Williard UCC; the Knitwits give away mittens (someone bought the yarn); Habitat for Humanity; Blanket the World with Love; Souper Bowl of Caring; Japan Disaster; Ghana; and others. Checks were mailed to the various organizations. Those checks have Trinity United Church of Christ, Wadsworth, OH, on them. We don’t send along an itemized list of names and how much those people gave. The recipient gets their check as a gift from the generous people of Trinity UCC. How much was donated? For the sake of this article I’m estimating \$1,000. Total distributed in 2011 so far: \$41,683.68.

There are other areas of donation given in 2011 that have a “cash value.” This “cash value” can be calculated a little more closely. Disaster Relief buckets is one. In the November 6, 2011 Sunday Bulletin was a notice stating you could purchase a ready-filled bucket for \$25 and the goal was 30 buckets. That equals \$750. Another area is cereal box donations. Someone bought the cereal, and if we donated only 15 boxes/month and the cost was \$2.39/box that equals

BIG ON MISSIONS (CONT.)

\$430.20. The \$2.39 figure came from the least expensive Our Family Brand cereal I found at Buehlers. Mission 1 was a big success this year. As stated in the Mission Board Annual Report, “We collected 1,258 healthy food items for Miller Ave. Emergency Food Pantry and Williard Food Pantry”. If the average cost of these healthy food items was 80 cents that equals \$1,006.40. Not so easy to calculate is what we enjoyed giving to The Fish Tree for Teens and The Salvation Army Adopt a Family. You saw the items on and under the Fish Tree and the number of ornaments to choose from for the adopted family. If there were 45 total items purchased for these two causes and the average cost was \$8 that equals \$360. If you added a note in the Disaster Relief Bucket than the recipient knows who donated it. However, none of the boxes of cereal, or the Fish Tree gifts, or the Adopt a Family purchases, or the Mission 1 healthy food items have our members’ names on them. The recipients see these items as gifts from the generous people of Trinity UCC. The Mission Board has addressed the need to account for this additional giving in the Trinity UCC Strategic Plan. Mission Goal A, II Visibility, item B states “Devise ways to measure “untrackable” mission giving (e.g. cereal, stamps, mittens, disaster buckets, meeting space, etc.) with a comprehensive report to the congregation of all missional giving.” We should all thank them for taking on this challenge. Total distributed in 2011 so far: \$44,230.28.

\$44,230.28 is a significant amount of financial support Trinity UCC members gave in 2011 to worthy causes helping needy people. Some of my calculations are my estimates. I thought about the numbers for a long time. Decide for yourself. Did we give more or less than \$1,000 in total to the causes mentioned in paragraph 5? Did we give more or less than 15 boxes of cereal per month? Did the cereal you bought cost more or less than \$2.39/box? Were there more or less than 45 total items given to the Fish Tree for Teens and the Salvation Army Adopt a Family? Was your purchase more or less than \$8? Was the healthy food item you purchased for Mission 1 more or less than 80 cents?

\$44,230.28 is a significant amount of financial support Trinity UCC members gave in 2011 to worthy causes helping needy people. We gave prayerfully, we gave thoughtfully, but most of all we gave generously. Should we acknowledge and take credit for our contributions that are not part of a budget figure? ABSOLUTELY! Should we be proud of the thousands of extra “missional dollars” we donate to worthy causes helping needy people? ABSOLUTELY! None of us should feel or believe our “missional dollars” are being short-changed because of a dollar amount in our church budget. The dollar amount in the budget is thoughtfully distributed, but is not a true picture of the amount of financial support we distribute annually. Members of Trinity UCC will year after year after year give generously to worthy causes helping needy people.

Why did I write this? My only reason is to make this congregation fully aware and appreciate the amount of “missional dollars” donated and distributed from the members of Trinity UCC. I hope I have accomplished this; after all we’re Big on Mission.

Prayerfully and Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Whalen