

JULY/AUGUST 2021
TRINITY CALLING
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FROM DAVE'S DESK

A little girl became restless in church as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Growing more and more restless during the sermon, she finally leaned over to her mother and said, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

During the pandemic when the safer-at-home guidelines were in place, but also as we got out and about a bit more but still had to exercise caution while some businesses and restaurants were closed to inside customers, how often did we have a similar sentiment: When will we be free to do what we want?

Deuteronomy 2:3 says, "You have been skirting this hill country long enough. Head north..." The Israelites spent 40 years on a journey that should have lasted 11 days. But the fickleness of their faith made the longer wandering necessary. Most of those 40 years were spent circling Mount Seir – they moved, they wandered, but always in a circular motion around the mountain, no nearer the Promised Land than when they started. So finally, after they'd learned their lesson, God told them through Moses, in so many words, "The time has come. You're free to leave this place behind and move forward."

This could be a narrative of human life. How often do we find ourselves camping in certain spots, so to speak? We may journey a bit and have movement, but is our journey circular or are we really moving forward toward a goal? Are we just going through the motions?

Until just recently, how many of us felt this way as we reflected back on the previous 15 months of dealing with COVID-19, its pursuant guidelines, and our inability to move forward with many plans?

Now apply this same line of thinking to the church. We had movement – from recorded, online services for 3.5 months, to in-person worship and concurrent livestreaming for 4.5 months, to livestreamed only for just over 4 months, and finally back to in-person worship/livestreaming since late-March – but it seems to have been more circular in nature. We weren't spinning our wheels, we were still the church by worshiping in whatever way(s) we could at the time, and continuing to show love for one another and for others, support missions, and hold committee meetings in whatever ways we could so the work of the church could be maintained, but it wasn't the same. It was a different sense of direction, almost as if we were in surviving mode rather than thriving mode.

But now....it's different again. Our safety protocols have been adjusted because of fewer virus cases in our region and so many of us being vaccinated, we're back to mask-less gatherings (for those comfortable doing so) and singing from the hymnal, and we can finally see one another's face again!

And let's apply this to our spiritual life. If we get used to a circular pattern, a comfortable pattern – we lose our direction, our faith doesn't grow, and we don't move forward. And when we circle the mountain long enough we lose our vision of God's plan, of Christ's call, and the Spirit's presence.

Both in our personal faith and in the church we need a time to start or re-start, a time to commit or re-commit, a time to move forward and "head north." Now is the time! If you're able-bodied and feel comfortable from a safety perspective, now is the time to leave the encampment of your couch or recliner and come back to worship if you haven't yet done so! Now is the time to leave the ease of turning on the livestream service and staying in your pajamas and come back to worship! In our faith lives in general but in this moment in time in particular in the life of Trinity Church, we're called to have a forward movement with perseverance and dedication!

Hear me clearly: Utilizing livestream Sunday worship if you're homebound or feel the need to continue to be cautious health-wise is a vital way to continue to be a part of the Trinity faith community. We respect and support your decisions and will continue to offer grace and love in this regard.

But for the rest of us, the message is: Christianity is meant to be lived-out together. We need the sense of community, the common sense of purpose, support, nurture, and edification. We need to experience the Spirit moving in the midst of our worship time. We need the personal contact, even if we're not yet shaking hands, and to express the value of human relationships. We need

to get our marching orders, as it were. We need to gather together as a family of believers.

"...Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another..." (Hebrews 10:24-25, NRSV)

I encourage you to "head north," or south, or east, or west – whatever direction Trinity UCC is from your home – each Sunday morning. It's time to leave your encampment and make a fresh start.

See you in church!

Pastor Dave

Conference Minister to Heartland Conference



The Board of Directors of the Heartland Conference is pleased to announce the nomination of the Rev. David Long-Higgins to be called to the position of Conference Minister to the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ. Rev. Long-Higgins, currently serving as the Transitional Conference Minister, has distinguished himself during these last three years as an effective, engaging leader who is well suited to continue the conference efforts to live into its emerging future.

The calling of Rev. Long-Higgins to the position of Conference Minister requires the vote of the conference delegates which will take place during the Heartland Conference Annual Gathering, September 24-25. The specific timing of that vote will be identified once the agenda is published for the Annual Gathering. The Gathering itself will be a hybrid on-site/virtual experience allowing all persons to be involved in event.

**Back Bay Mission
Mission Emphasis for August**

The Back Bay Mission's Mission Statement: "Back Bay Mission, a community ministry of the United Church of Christ, serves the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the wider church community by faithful witness for social justice and compassionate service to the poor and marginalized." For over 90 years of service, the Back Bay Mission of Biloxi, Mississippi, has provided programs which have changed and adjusted to the specific needs of the community it serves. Yet the core of Back Bay Mission's character and purpose has remained steadfast. Back Bay Mission has worked on the Mississippi's Gulf Coast to assist those who have been marginalized by poverty, race, lack of education or other life circumstances. One of the major concerns targeted by Back Bay Mission is homelessness. "Home at Last" is a permanent housing and outreach program. By working with community leaders "Open Doors Homeless Coalitions of South Mississippi" was developed to help bring in funding to deal with the homeless issue.



For many years Trinity members have been involved in the Back Bay Mission work. Several of our members have either visited the mission or have volunteered by working at the mission. During August we hope you will continue to support our mission for the Back Bay Mission through your generous mission offerings by using the envelope enclosed in Trinity Calling.

Laura K. Johnson, Mission chairperson



Dear Trinity Friends,

Thank you to the members of Trinity church for your best wishes for my 91st birthday. And thank you to Vicki Ohl for the lovely flowers and to Hank and Carol Frey for delivering them.

Joan Groce

Dear Trinity,

Thank you so much for thinking of us on our 57th wedding anniversary. The bouquet was beautiful and it happened that the flowers were our wedding colors, pink and white. Thank you to Carol Roush for the flower donation and to Becky Grammer for the delivery.

Ron and Phyllis Bosler

**Clifford Farmer Scholarship Fund for the
Franciscan Earth Literacy Center
Mission Emphasis for July**

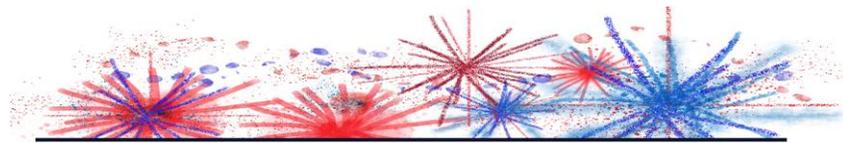
One of our most important tasks we have as Christians is to serve as good stewards of God's creation. This charge continues to become even more meaningful as we continually face issues involving our environment. The youth of today need every opportunity to experience working with the earth and learning how together we can sustain God's creation.



Field trips and summer camp are being held in smaller group and with precautions at the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center (FELC) This year, a science box will contain activities once a month and the cost is \$20 Many families are seeking scholarships to participate in these programs due to unemployment or reduced income.

The Clifford Farmer Scholarship Fund was established in memory of Cliff Farmer, a UCC pastor, administrator and faithful member of Trinity Church who worked to establish the FELC scholarship so young people could learn more about God's creation. FELC was founded in 1994 as an outreach mission of the Sisters of St. Francis. The center is where indoor and outdoor leaning experiences offer children "hands-on" activities so that learning becomes meaningful. Trinity has a unique opportunity this July to help children from Tiffin and Seneca County seeking these experiences. During July we hope you will continue to support our mission to this special scholarship fund to FELC children. Submit your generous mission offering by using the envelope enclosed in Trinity Calling.

Laura K. Johnson, Mission chairperson



WEBSITE UPDATE

The church website is completely up to date and has a fresh, new look! Be sure to check it out at www.TrinityUCCTiffin.com.

Council News

The Church Council met June 9, 2021 with all members but one present.

Topics of discussion were:

- Dian Ewald and Lynsey Hord are continuing work on updating the wedding policy/contract .
- Staff reviews have almost concluded by the Church and Ministry Committee.
- It was announced that the last date for Joan and Doug McConnell to be our Trinity Musicians/Coordinator will be August 2.
- Discussed the current property concerns. The fire alarm system needs updates and will be quite costly, and the former Chapel room behind daycare offices will have pipes to repair and floor to replace. Property and volunteers are continuing care to the landscaping around our church.
- Shepherd's Family continues to distribute bulletins/printed material to shut-ins or those that do not feel comfortable yet coming to church.
- Safety protocols used during Covid have been relaxed. Hand sanitizer will still be available for those that feel more comfortable using it but no longer at the entrance door. Noted that Communion will be handled the same, Sanctuary seating will remain staggered, attendees can get their own bulletins from ushers stand and offering will still be in an offering plate in the back by the ushers and brought forward for blessing. Bibles and Hymnals are replaced to pews.
- Pastor Dave gave a report on his monthly activities – a. discussed prayer concerns for current members and friends. b. Noted that July 4 and August 1 will be Communion Sundays. c. He started a Summer Bible Study Series and was pleased to say that 17 people were present for the first class. (Classes are Tuesdays at 11 am for the six week series.) d. An update on the Trinity Web page: 99% of the updates and additions have been made. It is a whole new look and encourages everyone to check it out.
- Council will not meet again until August.

Shari Beidelschies, Council Secretary

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous monetary donation to the Ecumenical Sharing Kitchen.

Meals are now being served in the Fellowship Hall along with a carry-out option.

Your donations are always appreciated.

God Bless you.

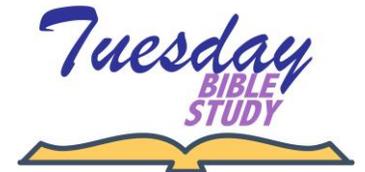
Sharing Kitchen Board Members



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

The Summer Bible Study Series on the Fruits of the Spirit continues on Tuesdays at 10:30am in the Conference Room. We've had 14-17 participants each of the first few sessions! Each weekly study focuses on one of the nine

fruits referenced by the Apostle Paul in Galatians 5:22-23 and is a stand-alone lesson, not dependent on previous weeks. So it's not too late to join in – just contact the church office at 419-447-9131 to let us know you'll be attending.



UCC GENERAL SYNOD – JULY 11-18

General Synod 33, the biannual gathering of the United Church of Christ, will be held July 11-18 and online only with the theme “Rooted in Love.” If you'd like to follow the proceedings and events and find information including the resolutions which will be considered at this year's Synod, click on this link to visit the General Synod website: <https://www.generalsynod.org/>

Music Notes



Summer is here, and with it “summer music” at Trinity. We are fortunate to have members and friends who are willing and able to share a wide array of musical offerings in our service. Our thanks go to: Sarah Carpenter, soprano; Blake Depinet, organ; Carol Dusdieker, soprano; Lynsey Hord, saxophone; Doug McConnell, piano (and accordion!); Cole Newlove, piano; Vicki Ohl, piano; Pat Powers and Deb Kisabeth, dulcimers; Dave Voll, baritone; Dennis Williams, tuba; Barbara Zinn, soprano.

Choir members: We are now planning two days for “summer choir.” The first is July 18, as announced last month. The second date is August 1, which will be our last Sunday before moving to Cincinnati. Doug will be in touch to announce rehearsal time(s), as we get closer to those days.

Joan McConnell
Organist and Music Coordinator



LOCAL AND WIDER CHURCH ONLINE RESOURCES...

Trinity YouTube Channel: (Livestream Worship, 10:00am Sundays)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOKE6R8pcJpPIo1r3hn39OQ>

Trinity Website: www.TrinityUCCTiffin.com

Trinity Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/trinityucctiffin

Northwest Ohio Association UCC website: www.nwoa.org

Heartland Conference UCC website: www.heartlanducc.org

United Church of Christ website: www.ucc.org



Trinity Film Series 2020-2021
SCENES FROM THE CUTTING ROOM FLOOR
**A series devoted to all the films that there wasn't room
for in the other film series!**
Next film date is July 24

Join us at 6:30 for the film, *The Farewell*. Here is a preview...

The Farewell (2019): Nai Nai has been diagnosed with cancer and has been given a few months to live; should the family tell her? If you live in the Chinese culture of this film, the answer is no! Nai Nai's family decides to gather for one last celebration (a wedding,) with their beloved family member. Granddaughter Billi is asked to stay back in America where she now lives; Nai Nai will figure out the truth if she comes! But how can you keep Billi from seeing her grandmother one last time? A charming tale about love and family to finish our series. (*For the Love of Family and Friends*)

See you all soon!