

October 2021

TRINITY CALLING

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FROM DAVE'S DESK

When an interim pastor and a congregation come to a point in their relationship when they prepare to say goodbye, it can be difficult. Congregational life at Trinity with which we've grown accustomed, even given the ups and downs of the past 18 months, will change. Certainly because of the pandemic the connections that might otherwise have been made or more deeply formed couldn't occur, but still many of us formed relationships that quickly became comfortable and meaningful, and those will change. Some of us shared joys and sorrows together, or we talked about issues of faith and life on a personal level, and real fondness and care developed. These are significant! All this means that we all face the future knowing that things will be different. But as hard as it may be for some of us, our time for saying farewell will happen soon.



Your pastoral candidate will lead worship and preach his trial sermon on October 10 after which you as a congregation will vote on the recommendation to call Dr. Fred Arzola as your new settled pastor. Now that these wheels are set in motion, what this means for me is that I am in the process of seeking a new Intentional Interim position. I've already had discussions with several churches and Association ministers in Ohio and out of state. So this is a time of significant transition for all of us.

During a tenure of interim ministry, it's appropriate for the pastor and congregation to address three important questions: Who are we? Who is our neighbor? And What is God calling us to do or to be?

Because of the unique circumstances of the pandemic which prompted us to not have in-person gatherings during two different stretches for a combined total of nine months, we perhaps didn't have an opportunity to focus on these as we otherwise might have. But we still did some essential work with regard to these themes. I touched a few times, in writing and from the pulpit, about the history of Trinity, your identity today, and about a vision

for its future; we considered and/or added two or three new mission partners to an already excellent benevolent program; we dealt specifically with these and mother questions last fall during a town hall-type gathering, which greatly assisted the Search Committee in completing the Congregational Profile to distribute to prospective pastoral candidates; and we had conversations in various committee settings about the state of things at Trinity and the possibilities for the future. In addition to these, we have successfully navigated the turbulent waters of COVID-19 and its affect on our life as a church family, including recorded and livestream worship services, printed services delivered to shut-ins and those without a computer, my Trinity Touchstone messages that kept us connected in the darkest days of the pandemic (initially three times a week and later weekly), and the Worship & Music Committee's excellent planning and implementation of protocols to keep ourselves and each other as safe as possible, especially the most vulnerable among us.

I'll say and/or write more when there is a clearer and definitive transition timeline, but for now I simply yet sincerely offer gratitude to God for bringing us together and blessing our mutual ministry; and say special thanks to you for being so warm and caring, and accepting and supportive of my efforts as your interim pastor.

As I close, consider these words from Paul in his letter to the Philippians: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (4:4-7, NRSV).

May God richly bless you always!

Pastor Dave



COMING NEXT MONTH – SPECIAL SUNDAYS AND SERVICES

- November 7 – All Saints Sunday and Communion
- November 14 – Stewardship Sunday
- November 21 – Thanksgiving Sunday
- November 28 – First Sunday of Advent

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – OCTOBER 3

Christians all over the world will celebrate World Communion Sunday on this special day. We affirm the unity of all Christians in Christ Jesus – no matter what the affiliation or denomination. We feel a sense of kinship as millions of people partake of the Lord's Supper on the same day.



World Communion Sunday

We will also welcome back Doug and Joan McConnell who will provide special music and other service. They will be visiting Tiffin that weekend because of the concerts at Heidelberg in which Doug is involved.

If you are participating in worship via livestream or recording, you're encouraged to have Communion elements ready at home – any kind of bread or cracker, and some juice or other beverage – so you may partake of the Sacrament during the service.



REFORMATION SUNDAY – OCTOBER 31



The heritage of our congregation and much of the United Church of Christ dates back to the Reformation era of the early- to mid-1500's in Germany and Switzerland. Church leaders like Ulrich Zwingli, Martin Luther, and John Calvin were instrumental in forming a new system of beliefs after protesting the

theology and practices of the Roman church, the predominant church of the day. Thus, the Protestant church was born as a result of this desire to reform. Our worship services on Sunday, October 31 will include worship themes appropriate for this historic day.

TRIAL SERMON AND CONGREGATIONAL VOTE – OCT. 10

As announced in the letters from the Search Committee and from Council President Fran Fleet, which you received a couple of weeks ago, a pastoral candidate has been recommended by the Search Committee to the Church Council, and the Council accepted their recommendation. Therefore a Trial Sermon has been scheduled for the candidate on October 10. On that Sunday you as a congregation will vote on the recommendation to call Dr. Fred Arzola as your new settled pastor.

Neighbors in Need

This offering supports the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects. Working with the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network, Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties and environmental justice.



The other third of this offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). There are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the United States.

These efforts are very important missions of the larger UCC and have been an important aspect of Trinity's support of missions. This is one of our 5 for 5 offerings for the year. (Make checks out to the church and note Neighbors in Need in the memo line. An envelope is provided for your convenience.)

Laura Johnson, Mission Committee

From Slave to Priest

To highlight this Black Catholic History Month, a group from the Diocese of Toledo is bringing the play "Tolon from Slave to Priest" to various communities in Ohio. The local performance will be November 12, 2021 at 7:00pm at the Elizabeth Shaffer Apartments gym on the St Francis Campus.

Augustus Tolton, a black child born to parents who were the property of a slave owner, grew up to become the first African American Catholic Priest. Ten years after his birth, his father joined the Union Army and his mother and his siblings risked escaping slavery to Quincy, Illinois. Constantly the victim of racial prejudice, he was cast out of the local Catholic school. He heard God's call but was refused acceptance into any U. S. seminary. So, he studied for the priesthood in Rome and was ordained April 24, 1886. He felt God's call to return to Quincy, Ill. His popularity there aroused jealousy of other catholic priests and ministers in the area as he attracted both white and black to his church. Later he was transferred to Chicago and established a parish there.

More information about his life will be available in a booklet available at the play performance. Trinity church through our Mission Committee is helping sponsor this performance with a church ad in the booklet.

Laura Johnson, Mission Committee



ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS



If your committee has not yet reviewed the TIME AND TALENT SHEET for changes or corrections for your committee, please do so and return the form to Joan in the Office. Deadline was September 27 or ASAP to be included in the second stewardship congregational letter.

For all you do
Thank you 

Dear Trinity,

What a wonderful surprise! The flowers given by Linda and Hank Brooks and delivered by Carol Roush are beautiful. They made our home very inviting for our weekend guests. They were enjoyed by all. We thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Donna Overholt

Dear Trinity Friends,

Thank you for the beautiful flowers delivered by Sue Halen and donated by Lewis Miller. Yellow roses are one of my favorite flowers.

Jane Wickham

Dear Trinity Members,

We want to thank you for the lovely altar flowers we received in honor of our 55th anniversary. Many thanks to Linda and Hank Brookes who provided them. Thanks also for the cards and good wishes.

Norman and Kathleen Rose

Dear Trinity,

Thank you so much for the flowers and get well wished and for Trinity members and Pastor Dave for their visits.

Sharon and Preston Burnside

Dear Trinity,

Thanks so much for the flowers and get well wishes for Carolyn during her illness. Thanks for the visits from Trinity members and Pastor Dave. Thanks Trinity for your kindness after her passing. Thank you Pastor Dave and organist, Joan McConnell for a beautiful service.

The Family of Carolyn Burnside

Dear Trinity Friends,

Thank you for the beautiful altar flowers furnished by Dave and Pat Gottfried and delivered by Sue Halen. Also, I do appreciate the printed sermon and church bulletins each week arranged by Rev. Voll. They keep me in touch.

Martha Forrest

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the people we serve, thank you for your generous donation to the FELC Cliff Farmer Memorial Scholarship at the Franciscan Earth Literacy center, helping children learn about and care for our environment.

Mimi Johnston, director

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 14

“ROOTED IN LOVE” is the theme of our Stewardship Celebration. We would like to share with you the two scriptures we have chosen this year that fit in very well with our messages and our purpose.



The beauty of 1st Psalm is because it is the image of life in the Christian community.

Psalms 1:3a says “**They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its seasons**”. To me this verse communicates the “TREE” as being the life-line given to each of us on earth and the FRUITS in its season is our declaration of talents and pledge.

The value of the second scripture in Ephesians 3:17 identifies with how deep our FAITH runs in our life. **Ephesians 3:17-19** “... **that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with the fullness of GOD.**”

Dian Ewald, Stewardship chair



Dear Trinity United Church of Christ Mission committee.

Thank you so much for the donation of money. The Tiffin Seneca Child Care Center is thrilled you were able to keep us in mind, and your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.! Currently we are working on getting donations for the fire suppression system for the church. We are off to a great school year. Thanks again.

Kelly and staff

Volunteers needed

As we prepare for a new pastor and what he brings to us, we need to sit up and take a good look at us, as a congregation, and what we offer him. On that same note, don't forget to fill in your Time and Talent Sheet that will be mailed to you in the second stewardship congregational letter. In order to properly welcome the services of a new pastor, we all need to provide services as Volunteers on the Time and Talent Sheet. (especially greeters; ushers; valet parking attendants and delivering flowers).



Council Update

Council had a busy session when they meet in September.

Items discussed included:

- The Search Committee recommended and Council unanimously voted to recommend to the Congregation that we call Pastor Fred Arzola as our next settled pastor. Pastor Fred will be asked to do Contemporary and Traditional Services Sunday October 10, after which A Special Congregational Meeting will be held following the Traditional Service to receive, discuss and vote on the recommendation.
- Church and Ministry made a recommendation to approve Lynsey Hord as interim Choir Director starting September 10. However due to Covid, choir will not begin for fall yet. Council approved Church and Ministry to begin a search for a permanent Organist and Choir Director as Blake and Lynsey are Interims.
- The Stewardship Campaign is in the planning stages.
- A church wide cleaning day is going to happen on September 25. Other cleaning days may follow.
- New flooring will be laid in the foyer on October 4. Please avoid coming to office unless an emergency.
- New roofing is needed on the east side of the second floor above classroom B.
- In addition, Search Committee Chair Larry Clausing was present.

Shari Beidelschies, Council secretary

2021 TRINITY STEWARDSHIP PRESENTATIONS

Our Stewardship Program schedule is slightly different this year. We start off with the Search Committee introducing their selected new pastor, with whom we will meet and greet on October 10 followed by three Sunday's Stewardship Moment Presentations:

THE ADVENTURES OF OUR PK's. Now if you are oblivious to what "P.K." means, then come hear about 'Growing up in a church family'; and what impact this child-development environment bestowed upon their individual lives. You won't want to miss these Great Stewardship moments.

Our Stewardship Moments will be presented at each of the three worship Services during the last three Sundays; October 17, October 24, and October 31. You are invited to attend and listen to personal accounts of how church grows a family or how family grows in church. If you are not able to attend, please watch the recorded traditional church service for a recap of the Stewardship moment that you missed.

2021 TRINITY STEWARDSHIP PARTICIPATION

Congregation Participation: There is an all-congregation participation segment added this year.

In keeping with our theme this year, we would like everyone in the congregation to answer the theme-related Stewardship question. Very simple. Find, Copy and Fill in your answer on the STEWARDSHIP PARTICIPATION FORM. (forms are available in the Trinity Calling, the Sunday Bulletins, and in the church office.) Please call the church if you are unable to get or return your form. Or we can call on you to include your response.

The question is: "What keeps you rooted in your FAITH /or/ has kept you GROUNDED in your church family?"

Please fill in the form, or write your answer on a separate piece of paper, or email it to the church office or call the church office so we can write your answer down for you. **Please participate. Your personal recollection is a comprehensive part of our church family.**



New Address

Sue and Randy Halen have moved. Their new address is 1308 West White Sand Drive, Meridian, ID 83646. They would love to hear from all.



LOCAL AND WIDER CHURCH ONLINE RESOURCES...

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

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOKE6R8pcJpPlo1r3hn39OQ>

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

Lessons from lilies

Recently I was challenged to think about what consumes me — and what distracts me from giving God more. In Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus tells us not to worry about what we eat, drink and wear. I've read those verses numerous times and usually respond, "Yeah, but the birds and lilies don't have mortgages and bills! How can I not worry?" I'm finally realizing that if I put Christ first, then my trust in him affects my day-to-day decisions. Plus, negative thoughts start to fade.

When do you respond, "Yeah, but ..." to God? Maybe it's when you want to sleep in on Sunday, or when the offering plate is passed, or when you're asked to teach Sunday school. Try reciting Matthew 6:33 often: "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (ESV). When we prioritize Jesus, he guides us toward him and away from worries.

—Julie Lee



General Memorial Fund

In memory:

Carolyn Burnside by Sharon Burnside

Burnside/Sherman fund

Carolyn Burnside by Sharon Burnside

Carolyn Burnside by Hank and Carol Frey



Men's breakfast to resume

The monthly men's breakfast will again be on the third Tuesday of the month at 8 a.m. Denny's. In October, date will be Oct. 19.



Clocks fall back











Reminder: Clock fall back one hour on Nov. 7.



MASTER MULTIPLICATION

Jesus tells a parable about faithful servants who multiply their master's money. How does the master respond?

Directions: Solve the math problems. Find the letters that match the answers and write them in order to complete Matthew 25:21, NIV.

- | | |
|--|---|
| • 5 x 3 =  | • 6 x 6 =  |
| • 7 x 4 =  | • 9 x 3 =  |
| • 4 x 6 =  | • 3 x 8 =  |
| • 2 x 10 =  | • 10 x 4 =  |
| • 9 x 5 =  | • 11 x 8 =  |

KEY

A = 28	J = 50	S = 88
B = 35	K = 21	T = 45
C = 14	L = 63	U = 64
D = 25	M = 15	V = 32
E = 33	N = 24	W = 80
F = 72	O = 77	X = 56
G = 40	P = 54	Y = 20
H = 36	Q = 9	Z = 48
I = 27	R = 16	

"His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant!

You have been faithful with a few things;

I will put you in charge of _____.

Come and share your master's happiness!"

MATTHEW 25:21, NIV