

November 2021

## TRINITY CALLING

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### FROM DAVE'S DESK

According to an old song I learned in my barbershop singing days, “If there’s one thing in this world you can depend on, it’s change, change, change!”

This has certainly been the case over the past few weeks. We all thought we had a pastoral candidate for the settled pastor position and on October 10, he was to be introduced, lead worship and preach his trial sermon, and be voted upon. But as you now know, a few days before that Sunday he withdrew his candidacy and his interest in being called to Trinity. In this case, the change was rather sudden and certainly unexpected.

And since, in my last newsletter column I promised you further details, and I continue to desire to be as transparent as possible, let me back up the timeline even further. When I got word that the Search Committee would be recommending a pastoral candidate, I started the wheels in motion to find another interim position since it appeared I would be leaving Trinity soon. Sometimes that process is quick and at other times it can take a month or two. And for practical reasons, besides the obvious new ministry opportunity, I needed to ensure a seamless transition with regard to health insurance and housing. So plans needed to be made.

Shortly after the date was set for the pastoral candidate’s trial sermon at Trinity and while interviewing remotely with a few search committees in Ohio and elsewhere, I was offered an intentional interim position and I soon thereafter accepted that call. It was also learned that if the pastoral candidate was issued a call from Trinity to become your next settled pastor, he would have been able to start on November 28. So in my discussions with church leadership here, we agreed that



my last Sunday would be October 31 and that Trinity would utilize pulpit supply pastors, including our Association Minister, Rev. Dan Busch, for the first three Sundays in November. We felt it important to have a few weeks of “cushion” between my departure and the settled pastor’s first Sunday.

Then I received the news that the pastoral candidate had changed his mind, which prompted me to reassess this timeframe. While originally planning to be absent from worship on October 10 for the trial sermon, as is proper protocol for someone in my position, I made necessary arrangements to be here that Sunday and to have time to plan worship and a sermon. And even though I was set to begin my new interim position in late November, the other church has some flexibility with regard to my start date so I also made the decision to stay at Trinity two more months in order for the Search Committee and the Church and Ministry Committee, who is tasked with finding another interim pastor or supply pastor(s), to have a bit more time to get back on their feet, so to speak, and to not be so reactive in making future plans. I also made this decision in order to give the Trinity church family some continuity of pastoral leadership through Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas.

Change is often not on our radar, especially when it’s significant. As soon as we get comfortable with the way things are, everything gets turned upside down. Change can be uncomfortable, disconcerting, and unsettling. It can cause us to grieve or at least wish things were different. In the larger picture violence, diagnoses, market shifts, public policies, and pandemics all remind us that nothing stays the same. Well, almost nothing. Yes, life around us, on whatever level, often includes ups and downs, twists and turns, and dead ends and detours. But as Christians, let us take heart that our faith is firm on the solid rock of Christ, we dwell secure in the unchanging and eternal love of God, and we are promised the ever-present help and guidance of the Holy Spirit. “For I the Lord do not change...” (Malachi 3:6). “...(Nothing) will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” “And remember, I am with you always....” (Matthew 28:20a). Let us stand firm on and be grateful for these assurances!

While I believe that our personal theology and spirituality should involve being thankful every day, I’m conscious of the fact that we will soon be intentionally celebrating the season of Thanksgiving. So

as a way of tying this all together with a spirit of thankfulness, let me say again how grateful I am to God for the opportunity we’ve had to journey together through the hills and valleys of the past nearly two years, and how appreciative I am to all of you for being so kind, loving, and supportive. I’m also grateful that we’ll have a couple of more months together before we say farewell.

But until that time.....I’ll see you in church!

**Pastor Dave**



**Dear Trinity Church,**

To those who supported me with donations for the annual Church World Service CropWalk as we performed the 'widow's mite' to relieve world hunger, please accept my heartfelt thank you. The amount my walk earned was less than usual because there was no coffee hour after church to make my plea, but the \$260 garnered from some church folks and neighbors and friends will help a tad toward the gargantuan problem in our world.

May we all be aware of the horrendous needs in our world, and as we sit down at each meal to plenty, please think of the millions starving and help. And as we go home to a comfortable domain, please remember our much needed homeless shelter being started in Tiffin that your Mission committee is supporting. You will have the opportunity to do the same. Having volunteered overnight in one where we were serving in a church in South Bend, Ind., I know what a comfort that are to such needy.

Thank you for being caring empathetic church folks. May we all be motivated to be not only receivers but grateful givers to the needs of others.

**Wilma Farmer**



How do we model “generosity”? We cannot begin to thank everyone in our church enough for the generosity you give of your time, talent and monetary gifts. These have afforded the church to run smoothly this past year and, even the year prior, when COVID-19 closed the church down completely. This next year will be challenging for everyone to say the least. Our tithes are essential to keep the church open, however, the gift of oneself is monumental in maintaining all the services we appreciate. Please prayerfully appraise the time and talent sheet and PLEASE volunteer. Thank you.



### **SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES**

#### **November 7 – All Saints Sunday / Holy Communion**

During the Traditional Service there will be a brief Service of Remembrance for the members of Trinity UCC who died during the previous twelve months. The ritual will include lighting candles, reading the names of the deceased, offering prayer for their families and others whose loved ones died this past year, the tolling of a bell, and offering a gift of a handmade, wooden cross to each family. We'll also celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion this day.

#### **November 14 – Stewardship Sunday**

How do you best use God's good gifts of time, talents, treasures, relationships, and more? During this worship, we'll dedicate the 2021 Offering Pledge Cards that each member is asked to complete.

#### **November 21 – Thanksgiving Sunday and Blanket Sunday**

As we gratefully gather for worship and praise on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, worship elements will focus on the themes of gratitude and blessings. And as we observe Blanket Sunday, be reminded that only \$10 buys a blanket through Church World Service, which in turn helps all over the world in times of need. How many can we buy as a church family? During worship, we'll have a Mission Moment to help interpret and promote this Special Offering.

#### **November 28 – First Sunday of Advent**

Advent is the season to prepare for Christ's birth. During worship on each of the four Sundays before Christmas, we'll light a candle on the Advent Wreath to mark the weeks until the arrival of Christmas. During this holy season of Advent we use Scriptures, songs, carols, sermons, and special music to help us get ready for the celebration of Christmas



## Announcing!

John and Liesl (Barth) Huenemann welcomed a baby girl through open adoption on Friday, Oct. 8. Ingrid Ruth Huenemann was born in West Chester, OH, and the family resides in Columbus, OH.

Maternal grandparents are Tim & Cindy Barth and paternal grandparents are Kurt & Lynn Huenemann.



## BLANKET SUNDAY

Blankets provide warmth, shelter and protection for persons and families recovering from disaster, are fleeing oppression, and are homeless, poor, a migrant worker or unemployed. In remote areas many live without electricity or water. Sometimes it's hard for us to think of needing blankets to cover broken windows and drafts, use as a bed, or make a tent against stormy weather.



Church World Service has distributed thousands of blankets throughout the United States and other countries. Blankets are purchased by church members and distributed to those in need as mentioned above. The cost of one blanket is \$10. Your Trinity Mission Committee will designate Nov. 21 as Blanket Sunday.

**Laura Johnson, Mission Committee**

# Opportunity for Christmas Gift Giving

**Sisters in Shelter** supports survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence.

Their services include safe housing, financial assistance, emotional support, community education, case management, advocacy, transportation, counseling, legal help and anything else the clients need.

Clients work on an individualized case plan, attend counseling, and improve wellness during the 3-12 months living in a Shelter Safe house.



When they graduate from **Sisters in Shelter**, they participate in an employment program through **Hope's Landing** which is a non-profit social enterprise which provides empowerment, hope and healing to survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence through employment and personal development. All of their products are made by local survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence who have graduated from their residential healing program. The profits from their sales will fund the survivor's fair wages. Once all payroll and material costs are covered, any remaining amount will be donated back to **Sisters in Shelter**.

Their products: candles, lotion, lip balm, soap, lotion bars, shampoo bars, conditioner bars, bath salts, body butter, sugar scrubs, bath teas and jewelry. These will be on display and for sale in Trinity Church's lobby on Sunday, Nov. 14 during all services. This is an opportunity to purchase a gift and support a worthy cause.

**Laura Johnson, Mission Committee**



**Dear Trinity Members,**

Pat and I want to thank Barbara and Roy Zinn for the beautiful altar flowers. They brightened up the house. Also thank you to the members for your well wishes.

**Pat and Sharon Huffman**

# Heidelberg University Scholarship for UCC Students

There is a long and valued relationship over the years between Trinity United Church of Christ and Heidelberg University through membership, music programs, church staff members or community outreach.

Many Trinity members are graduates of Heidelberg. Heidelberg students have served as music interns, played in bell choirs, sung in the choir, and been liturgists. Many Trinity members attend and participate in numerous Heidelberg organizations, music groups, attend concerts, sporting events and theatre presentations.

Over 90% of students attending Heidelberg need some financial assistance. As students face increasing pressure with rising costs and economic pressures to secure funding to attend Heidelberg, Trinity can give financial scholarship money for United Church of Christ students. This shows that the Tiffin community is caring for them as individuals. Since our ties to Heidelberg are historic and deeply felt, let's keep our support strong for future generations attending our sister UCC institution here in Tiffin.

Laura Johnson, Mission Committee



## Rooted in Love

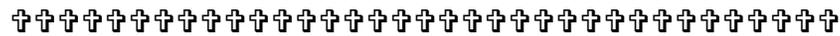
Stewardship Sunday is Nov. 14. Our Stewardship campaign "Rooted in Love" is advancing smoothly with shared memories from three of our "Pastor's Kids" "who grew up in a church family. Do you know that we have several more Pastor Kids "PK's" who are members in our congregation? Thank you to all our PK's, for you are all truly special children living in God's World.

The first congregational letter, written by Pastor Dave, was mailed out. Your second letter from the Church Council President, Fran Fleet, will be in your hands very soon. In that second letter is the Pledge Card and Time and Talent Sheet. All Pledge Cards and Time and Talent Sheets are due by or before Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 14. Please place your pledge and promises on the special offering stand in the back of the church on Stewardship Sunday. If you are not able to attend, please drop off your sealed envelope in the Church Office. The Budget Committee appreciates your promptness so they can prepare the 2022 Budget for the Annual Meeting in January. Thank you to the Arts Committee for preparing the Steward Offering table.



**COMING NEXT MONTH – SPECIAL SUNDAYS AND SERVICES**

- December 5 – Second Sunday of Advent; Advent Communion in Song
- December 12 – Third Sunday of Advent
- December 19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent
- December 24 – Christmas Eve
- December 26 – Sunday After Christmas; Pastor Dave’s Farewell Sunday



## Stewardship Message

Our 2021 Stewardship Messages this year focuses on Rooted in Love and memories we are willing to share having grown up in one’s church. Care to reminisce on how church has helped shaped you/us? Whether you are a “PK” or you grew up in a different congregation/denomination please share a statement or a thought. The question form is available in October and November Trinity Calling as well as in all Sunday bulletins in October. Find the form and Read the following question;

**“what keeps you rooted in your FAITH /or/  
has kept you GROUNDED in your church family?”**

You do not need to share your name unless you want to do so. Three ways to participate:

- Fill in the form and put in the offering plate.
- Email your answer to the church office - Subject: Rooted in love
- Or Call Joan Nelson in the church office. We want to hear from everyone.

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

## Fairhaven News

The Fairhaven Volunteer Service Group met at Emmanuel UCC recently. Becky Blocksum informed the members to the meeting that they did not have the final details on the Tree of Love yet. There are no definite plans on when they will be allowed back in at Fairhaven. Members will find out at the Nov. 15 meeting whether or not we will be allowed in the building to do the Christmas Tree decorating or the Tree of Love event.

Normally \$1,000 is given by the gift shop to Fairhaven so they can purchase Christmas gifts for all residents. It was decided that the gift shop would give that amount again this year and if, when they are able to open back up at Fairhaven and need to purchase product for the store, they are short of funds the treasury will help out as needed.

The \$500 Scholarship Fund money that was sent by the volunteer group to Fairhaven has been sent to Marion Tech for Jessica Moss.

Next meeting will once again be held at Emmanuel UCC Church. Devotions will be given by St. John’s Bucyrus.



### General Memorial Fund

**In memory:**

- Jeanie Perl by Martha Forrest
- Jeanie Perl by Donna Overholt

### Music Fund

- Jeanie Perl by Kathryn Adams
- Jeanie Perl by Hank and Carol Frey
- Jeanie Perl by Larry and Drea Cook
- Jeanie Perl by Kathleen and Norman Rose
- Jeanie Perl by Bruce and Pat Powers
- Jeanie Perl by Barbara and Roy Zinn

### Organ Fund

- Jeanie Perl by Lewis Miller



# GOD'S WILL

God wants us to follow his will, but how can we know what that is?

*Directions: Write the letters on each vine in the correct order on the lines provided to complete 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV.*

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 2 e o r  
 4 1 c j  
 6 3 l  
 w 3  
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 in all circumstances; for this  
 is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.  
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1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18, NIV

Answer: rejoice, always, pray, give, thanks

**Today is BLANKET SUNDAY.** Blankets provide warmth and shelter. They are beds. They keep out drafts of poorly insulated homes. Victims of being homeless, fleeing oppression, and recovering from disaster can receive blankets from Church World Service. The cost is \$10.00 each blanket.

**Hope's landing**, as part of **Sisters in Shelter**, a non-profit social enterprise that provides empowerment, hope, and healing to survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence through employment and personal development will have their products available for purchase on Nov. 14 in the lobby entrance.

November Bulletin announcement

**November Mission Emphasis: Heidelberg University Scholarship Fund.**

Over 90% of Heidelberg Students need some financial assistance due to pressure of rising costs and economic constraints. Since our ties to Heidelberg are historic and deeply felt, let's keep our support strong for future generations attending our sister UCC institution here in Tiffin.