



19 No. 2 Newsletter

February 2019

Trinity United Church of Christ
8919 S. St. Rt. 53, PO Box 126
McCutchenville, OH 44844-0126

Phone: 419-981-5808
Website: www.thetrinityucc.com
Church Email: trinityucc@bright.net
Co-Pastor Karen Fraser Moore
Co-Pastor Paul S. Fraser

Karen's Kares

On Wednesday, January 30, Paul and I attended a Clergy Luncheon to hear a message from our special friend, The Rev. Teresa Hord Owens, the General Minister/President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. We met Teresa (Terry) when we were all serving in the Illinois Conference of the UCC a few years ago. When she was elected in 2017 as the General Minister/President of the denomination, it was quite a celebration. Terry is the first person of color and only the second clergywoman to serve in the highest office of the Christian Church (DoC). It is an such honor and privilege to know her, to serve with her, and to love her. She has a touching and inspiring vision for the future of the Disciples, as well as a deep compassion and care for how the Church can respond to challenging times within the Ohio Region, the denomination and the world.

After we enjoyed a delicious lunch, we went to the sanctuary of the church where we met for an awesome time of worship and communion. Terry's Scripture for the afternoon came from the Book of Job, Chapter 14, verses 7-9.

⁷ "For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease. ⁸ Though its root grows old in the earth, and its stump dies in the ground, ⁹ yet at the scent of water it will bud and put forth branches like a young plant.

It is no secret that no matter which denomination or where a congregation is located in the United States, the Church of the 21st century is definitely in a time of challenging transition. Over the past decade, denominational leaders have struggled to deal with various challenges, such as questionable ethical behaviors and/or misconduct on the part of clergypersons, the mishandling of funds, and the loss of financial support. The same can be true of individual congregations. At times, a specific congregation may be tempted to "throw in the towel;" make the necessary decisions to close the doors and then enter into nostalgic sadness. The frustration and difficulty of dealing with maintenance of aging buildings, the busyness of people's lives, and the competition of a multitude of activities that demand the attention and energy of families can feel debilitating.

(Continued on page 2)

At times like these, it is time for the Church to consider the healing power of hope found in the above words of Scripture. Even when a mighty tree (even one that may be centuries old) is cut down, or destroyed (by storm or disaster), Job declares: “It will sprout again. Its shoots will not cease! Even though the tree’s roots have begun to rot deep in the ground, and the stump is completely dead – **AT THE SCENT OF WATER** – it will bud and put forth branches like a young plant!”

Terry encouraged our hearts as pastors – to continue to be and become “The Scent of Water,” which brings about a new plant. I may have been the only pastor present in the room who needed to be reminded of my call to be “the scent of water.” Yet, God’s Spirit spoke to my heart, and once again renewed by call to ministry in that moment. I am thankful for Terry, for God Church, which I have done my best to serve over the past 4 decades, and for the new possibilities; the new buds which will put forth branches like a young plant. The Church is in the process of being renewed, refreshed and re-empowered by God’s Love for the World.

May Trinity United Church of Christ also be renewed, refreshed and re-empowered by God’s Spirit and truly continue to be and become “The Scent of Water” in 2019 and beyond.

In Christ’s Love and Kare,

Pastor Karen



Paul's Ponderings

Sensing the Scent of Water

⁷“For **there is hope for a tree**, if it is cut down, that **it will sprout again**, and that its shoots will not cease. ⁸Though its root grows old in the earth, and its stump dies in the ground, ⁹yet **at the scent of water it will bud** and put forth branches like a young plant.” ~ Job 14:7-9 (**bold type emphasis added**)

Recently, during the shutdown of a portion of our federal government, some joyriders decided to go off the trails at Joshua Tree National Park. To do so, they impulsively, illegally and violently cut down some of the old growth trees for which the park is both named and for which it is known. The damage, as one park ranger mused, will reverberate for over 200 years before the former beauty and grandeur is fully restored.

We are living through a time of earth-shaking change. Long-established truths are being rebuked as lies, and flimsy fabricated lies are being propped up to replace these truths. Great traditions are being questioned and long-established values ignored. We feel this in our lives. Indeed, a voice cries out from within our bones: “May truth be truth again!”

As churchwomen and churchmen, we are troubled and afraid that in another generation or two, the truths of Scripture and the values of faith may be lost. Many of us feel like the fallen trees in the desert. Our values, and even ourselves are broken, fallen, reduced to stumps. Is it all lost?

Not according to Job in his cosmic dialogue with his honored God who takes away everything to see the resilience of Job's faith. Job sees that from the fallen logs will come a new shoot, a young plant and life will begin again, at the “scent of water.”

After a fresh rain, you can indeed smell the sweetness of water, but imagine if we could **sense the scent of water** before the first drop falls or rises from beneath the ground or rolls down the hillside from melting snow. The Reverend Teresa Hord Owens, in her passionate sermon on Thursday, January 30 in at the Pastors Gathering in North Arlington, reminded us that our bodies are mostly water. Scientists calculate that adult bodies are 50-65% water and infants and children's bodies consist of even more water. If God created the waters and then used them to form all of creation, then we might be humbled and encouraged to realize that when we are present in the world in a particular place that is dry and desperate or broken and brittle, we are assured that God is in us and therefore in the planting and the growing and the restoring of that which has fallen. We who know this become the agents – **the actors** – of restoring God's creation.

(Continued on page 4)

Thus God is present in our time of transition as Pastors and as a congregation. In these days when change is inevitable, we can **sense the scent of water** around and within us and know, for certain, that God did not, has not and will not abandon us to ourselves and to brokenness we believe will overtake us. Instead, we know God is doing a “new thing:”

¹⁹I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ~ Isaiah 43:19

And the Quaker author and philosopher Elton Trueblood wrote in *The Life We Prize*, in 1951,

“One has to come to the full meaning of life when he is willing to plant shade trees under which he knows full well he will never sit.”

We who serve in congregations and other settings of Christian ministry, like camps, schools, hospitals and residential programs, are, I believe, called to sow what we will not harvest, and to plant trees under whose shade we will not sit. It falls to us to envision and build the new structures and forms of being and doing “Church” that are not for ourselves but for our children, our grandchildren and for those not yet born.

This past week we said good-bye to longtime member Florence Palmer, whose amazing life spanned more than a century. Imagine the changes she saw and adjusted to in her lifespan. What shall be said about ours? Can we imagine the legacy we may leave for those who will walk these paths and village streets and manage these fields in 2119?

The task is indeed bigger than our mere lives, but when we smell the scent of water, we know that God is in this: growing new life in broken places.

May your future be bright,

Pastor Paul





Thank You!

Dear Trinity UCC,
Thank you so very much for allowing the Bank to use your church to host our “Cookies with Santa” event. Your generosity to the community is greatly appreciated. If there is anything the Bank or I can do to help you, please let me know.

Thanks,

Karen

First National Bank of Sycamore

Special Thanks!

To ... Joan Davidson and Char Carrick for serving on the Consistory the past three years.

To ... our January Liturgists – Dan Cleland, Linda Clark, Carolyn Pennington and Gina Dutcher.

To ...our January Greeters - Elaine Kern, Sharon McGuire and Carol Hipsher.

To ...Dan Cleland for all his efforts and time spent making sure the church sidewalks are free of snow and ice, as well as plowing the church parking lot. Your devotion to Trinity is very much appreciated!!

To ... Rachel Pennington for her past job of changing the outdoor church sign each week, and now thanks to Bob Plott who has kindly accepted the responsibility of changing the sign, especially on these cold and snowy days!

To...those who have given their used ink cartridges/toner to the church for Staple’s rewards. For the year 2018, Trinity accumulated \$56 in ink recycling Staple rewards thanks to your generosity. Keep ‘em coming!

Joys!

\$12,500.00 Window Fund Update!

TO DATE: \$9,491.70



Doris Flack, Harry Traxler, Ruth Weininger, Sandy and Bob Beis, Barb Gurney, Donna Warnecke, John Ridenour, and to our Homebound: Betty Earl, Phyll Barth, Sylvia Bishop, Alice Earl, Anna Bea Heilman, Annabelle Noblit, Colleen Shaffer, and Maxine Weininger.

And those known and those known only to God who are homebound... hospitalized... those who are undergoing treatments... surgeries... and those with illnesses... and hurting spirits... and to all others who struggle and suffer in our world.



With Sympathy

Trinity extends its Christian love and sympathy:

- ❖ To the Kevin Kingseed Family on the loss of Kevin’s brother, Allan “Al” Kingseed;
- ❖ To Raman Khairo Family on the loss of her mother-in-law;
- ❖ To the friends and family of Heather J. Raypole;
- ❖ To the Florence Palmer family and friends.

Please continue to uplift these families in prayer as they grieve the loss of their dear loved one.

Keeping in Prayer those Serving our Country and Their Families

SFC Chad Acton COL Jason Affolder
SGT Nathan Beck SRA Chandler Heavrin
SSG Andrew W. Lust Major Blake M. Price
LS2 Michael Tanner CPT Kevin Tippens
WO2 Blair Gosche, 2LT Jeremy Vonada

We would like to send cards to our service people on occasion. Please email the church office (trinityucc@bright.net) your loved one's address. Thank you!



Join us following worship on Sunday, February 3 for our **Souper Bowl Party**.

We will have a variety of soups to enjoy as well as desserts. Donations will be accepted and will be given to our Stained-Glass Window Fund. If you can bring a pot of soup or dessert for this event, it would be very much appreciated!

We hope you will come to share in this time of fellowship with us.

Snow Tubing at Snow Trails

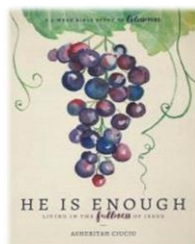


Saturday, February 9.

Don't forget, our group's time on the slope is from 9 am to 11 am. In order to arrive and be ready for tubing at 9 am at Snow Trails, we will leave from the church at 7:50 am. Please be here at 7:40 am so we may do a head count, arrange for rides, and leave promptly. If meeting us there, be sure to notify Jan if any change in arrangements. Once at Snow Trails and checked in, our time of fun begins! Because this is such a popular sport at Snow Trails, our group

reservations had to be purchased by January 31. But if you missed the deadline date and would like to go, talk to Jan (419-981-5808 or trinityucc@bright.net) to see **IF** there is a chance of any extra ticket(s) available. Tickets sell out quickly, but we can call Snow Trails to see if there is any chance to add an extra ticket or two to our group.

PLEASE JOIN US... IN A BOOK/BIBLE STUDY



HE IS ENOUGH – LIVING IN THE FULLNESS OF JESUS

- A study of Colossians
- By Asheritah Ciuciu
- Led by Patti & Marty

Monday evenings for 6 weeks from 5:30 - 6:30 pm beginning February 4, 2019 at Trinity UCC-McCutchenville

If you would like a book, the cost is \$11.00.

This study guide contains two paths:

- **Snack on the Go:** a bite size morsel of truth to chew on throughout your busy day.
- **Feast:** a dig deep guide to maximizing the “meat” you’re getting out of our bible study.

You can enjoy this study in whatever way works best for you. Discover the joy and freedom that abounds when we know deep in our hearts that Jesus truly is enough. See Patti or Marty with any questions.

“By far it is those things that I left undone that rob me of my serenity. If only I had taken time to listen, made a call, say a prayer. Then I am reminded there's TODAY.”

~ Submitted by Nira Beaschler

Consistory

Consistory has organized itself for the new year. Elected as president is Dave Weininger, Leigh Beidelschies as Vice President, and Sue Parker as Secretary. Other Consistory members include Ken Palmer, Dale Pennington, Andrew Plott and Dan Cleland. Please offer our leaders your support as we venture into the new year. And as always, feel free to bring your questions or concerns to them.

Consistory will hold their next meeting on Monday, February 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.



February's Dartball Schedule:

February 7

Scutch at St. Paul-2

February 14

TEC-B at Scutch

February 21

Sycamore at Scutch

February 28

League Tournament TBA - 6:30 pm

Stay Connected with Trinity

Website: www.thetrinityucc.com

(Public) Facebook:

facebook.com/TrinityUCCScutch

(Private) Facebook: Friends of Trinity UCC in McCutchenville

Email: trinityucc@bright.net

~ Please join us for worship each Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Karen is our worship leader for the Epiphany Season through March 3.

~ **Adult Sunday School** begins at 9:00 a.m.

~ **Children's Sunday School** - All children Preschool through 6th grade are invited to attend Sunday School which is held during the worship hour.

Sunday mornings

9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.



See the calendar book on the coffee table to choose a Sunday to bring in some type of sweets for Coffee Hour. See Jan for reimbursement.

News & Notes

Co-Pastors' Contact Information:

Pastor Karen Fraser Moore

welwoman@hotmail.com

618-920-3592 (Cell)

419-927-9701 Sycamore Parsonage
305 S. Sycamore Ave,
Sycamore, OH 44882

Pastor Paul S. Fraser

paulsfraser@hotmail.com

217-549-8823 (Cell)

419-927-9701 Sycamore Parsonage
305 S. Sycamore Ave
Sycamore, OH 44882

*** Please remember to keep the office updated with your current contact information.**

Thank you!

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Recycling



Saturday, February 2
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Church Parking Lot

ATTENTION ALL STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS!



Please be sure to let Jan know dates and times of committee meetings so we can schedule meetings on the church calendar as well as announcing them in the bulletin and newsletter. Thanks for helping us stay organized!!

~ Christian Ed Committee will meet Monday, February 11, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

~ **Worship at Westbrook.** The Co-pastors continue to lead a worship service at Westbrook Assisted Living in Upper Sandusky the third Sunday of each month beginning at 2:00 p.m., and you are invited to attend. We meet in the parlor near the front entrance. Hope to see you there!

~ Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) applications are posted on the back hall church bulletin board, or you may call the Area Agency on Aging at 800-860-5799 to obtain an application or get further details.



The Co-Pastors are in need of cardboard boxes of any size.

Acolytes

February 3 Makenzie Clifton
 February 10 Anna Russell
 February 17 Brady Hannam
 February 24 Mylie Clifton

Liturgists

February 3 Linda Clark
 February 10 Carolyn Pennington
 February 17 Gina Dutcher
 February 24 Dan Cleland

Greeters

February 3 **Volunteer needed**
 February 10 Dan McClain
 February 17 **Volunteer needed**
 February 24 Dan McClain

Sunday School Helpers

February 3 Robin Tong
 February 10 Kathy Russell
 February 17 Jerry Weininger
 February 24 Cathy Lucius

February Stewardship Project (see page 10)

CUE - Chicago, United, Eden Seminaries



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ruth Pennington, Mitchell Cray
- 2 McKayla Fenstermaker
- 3 Cody Jones, Connie Acton, Jack Plouck, Zoë Halm
- 4 Nicholas Beck
- 5 Ginny Briney, Kinsley McClain
- 6 Zoey Danner
- 8 Kalli Luhning, Carter Stine
- 9 Chad Shellhouse
- 11 Jeremiah Hough
- 12 Dennis Morehart, Hayes Weininger
- 13 Emma Raber, John T. Stansbery, Jake Stevens
- 14 Kevin Kingseed, Robin Tong, Sloan Rhoad, Joseph Weininger, Katherine Palmer, Elijah Blanton
- 15 Mandi Clifton
- 16 Linda Heilman, Kristen Duffy, Sean Duffy, Brandy Nye
- 17 Jerry Weininger (Continued on page 9)

- 18 Scott Parker, Grant Plouck,
- 19 Linda Heimrick
- 22 Cindy Traxler, George Stine,
Dave Roper, Trey Heilman
- 23 Ruth Weininger
- 26 Ilah Rickle, Mazie Stevens
- 27 Cathy Lucius
- 28 Sue DeV Vaughn, Erin Bates
- 29 Patsy Lust

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES



- 6 Darrin and Tina Morehart 34 years
- 12 William and Becky Coffee 26 years
- 23 Joe and Juli Weininger 35 years
- 23 Brent and Lisa Parker 17 years

Consistory Meeting Highlights
December 2018

Pastors' report:

The Co-Pastors have requested approval of reimbursement for online courses, "Powerful Coaching Questions and A Coach Approach to Leading and Managing," at a total cost of \$634.00. This will be a shared cost with Sycamore UCC, which they have approved. There was also a request for attendance of a seminar/retreat in Sandusky called Wisdom Conversations: Our Narratives of Aging. The cost is \$54.67 per person for the course, plus \$95.00 for lodging. These expenses will also be shared with Sycamore UCC. A motion was passed to accept these expenses, along with the November mileage report.

Committee Reports:

Caring Community: 1 family received our assistance in November.

Stewardship: Pledge campaign has been completed with successful results.

Worship and Music: Christmas Eve service will be at 9:00 p.m. with Communion.

Maintenance: repair work on the missing cornice and replace the light globe at the side door.

Memorial: New choir folders have been purchased.

Old Business: Dave and Lynda Weininger will construct a growth thermometer poster for the Stain Glass Window Campaign. It will be placed at the back of the sanctuary.

The Pony Express has been completed by the Stewardship Committee.

New Business:

Discussion on safety strategies involved the possibility of inviting an outside safety officer to the church for a possible class.

A continued search is ongoing for deacons and we will plan a congregational vote for December 30th and the installation on January 6th.

The Annual Meeting date has been set for January 27th.

With the upcoming transition it has been decided to have a Congregational Open Forum on January 20th. The congregation will have the opportunity to offer their input on the future of our church.

A warm thank you was given to Dave and Lynda for hosting the meeting at their home with a delicious dinner included.

A large expression of gratitude and thankfulness was given to Joan and Char for their service on the consistory.

The next meeting will be held on January 7th at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh Beidelschies, Secretary

December 2018 Treasury Report

INCOME:

Tithes/Offerings	\$	7,814.50
Other types of Income	\$	130.92
Special Events Income	\$	1,333.33
Special Events Paid Out	\$	<u>-148.90</u>
Total Income/Gross Profit	\$	9,129.85

PASTORAL EXPENSES:

Paul's Salary	\$	1,265.00
Karen's Salary	\$	<u>1,265.00</u>
Total Salary	\$	2,530.00

Social Security

Paul's S.S. & Med	\$	96.78
Karen's S.S. & Med	\$	<u>96.78</u>
Total S.S.	\$	193.56

Total Pastoral Expenses	\$	2,723.56
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ADMINISTRATION

Secretary	\$	921.00
Custodian	\$	304.75
Organist	\$	238.52
Columbia Gas	\$	724.46
Electric AEP	\$	195.27
Telephone	\$	83.56
Insurance	\$	918.00
Worker's Comp	\$	32.65
Copier/Duplicator	\$	97.88
Pulpit Supplies	\$	100.00
Worship Supplies	\$	8.48
Maintenance Inspec/service	\$	88.25
Miscellaneous	\$	61.04
Youth Director Ministry	\$	60.00
Total Administration	\$	3,833.86

Total Expenses	\$	6,557.42
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Net Ordinary Income	\$	2,572.43
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CHECK BOOK BALANCE:	\$	15,273.79
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DECEMBER AVERAGE SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE = 56
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February Stewardship Project



The CUE Regional Seminary Support Program brings together over 2,000 United Church of Christ churches in mid-America, Local Church Ministries, and Chicago, United, and Eden Theological Seminaries, our three United Church of Christ seminaries in this region.

Our mission is to:

- Strengthen the relationship between our churches and our seminaries.
- Further the mission and work of these seminaries.
- Provide financial support for our seminaries.

We live in challenging times and we recognize the vital impact of our seminaries as they:

- Prepare leaders for church and society.
- Increase theological thought and scholarship.
- Provide multiple resources to the local churches.

Current seminary statistics show that:

- Tuition and scholarships currently pay for about 32% of the total costs of seminary education each year.
- The current tuition at each seminary:
- Chicago \$11,496; United: \$12,069; Eden \$12,200.
- The current cost to each seminary per student, per year: Chicago: \$35,345; United \$37,800; Eden \$36,000.
- Students currently attending these seminaries: Chicago: Total enrollment, 223;
- United: Total enrollment 186 students;
- Eden enrollment, 210 students.

Trinity helps to support theological education through your support of CUE during the month of February.

FEBRUARY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Recycling 8:30 am – 10:30 am 
3 9:00 am – Adult SS 9:00 am – Coffee Hr 10:00 am – Worship 10:00 am- Children’s Sunday School Souper Bowl Party Following Worship	4 Bible Study 5:30 pm Consistory 7 pm	5	6 Choir Practice 6:30	7 Dartball 7:30 – Away SCC-Baseline 7:00	8	9 SNOW TUBING! 9:00 am – 11:00am Snow Trails
10 9:00 am – Adult SS 9:00 am – Coffee Hr 10:00 am – Worship 10:00 am - Children’s Sunday School	11 Bible Study 5:30 pm Christian Ed Meeting 6:00 pm	12	13 Choir Practice 6:30	14 Cub Scouts 6:30pm Dartball – 7:30 Home Valentine’s Day	15	16
17 9:00 am – Adult SS 9:00 am – Coffee Hr 10:00 am – Worship - 10:00 am - Children’s Sunday School 2:00 pm - Westbrook	18 Bible Study 5:30 pm Presidents’ Day	19	20 Choir Practice 6:30	21 Dartball – 7:30 Home	22	23
24 9:00 am – Adult SS 9:00 am – Coffee Hr 10:00 am – Worship 10:00 am - Children’s Sunday School	25 Bible Study 5:30 pm	26	27 Choir Practice 6:30	28 Cub Scouts- 6:30 pm Dartball Tournament 6:30 pm	March 1	March 2