



Trinity Tidings

October 2026

Quarterly Newsletter

Trinity United Church of Christ
Upper Sandusky, Ohio

LIFE AT TRINITY UCC

Faith in action. Fellowship in community. Growing together.



UNITED IN HARMONY

In August, we were blessed to welcome United in Harmony as they shared their beautiful music and led us in a special morning of worship. Their gift of song reminded us of the power of music to bring us together in faith. Fellowship Time followed the service.

Thank you, United in Harmony, for a memorable morning!

FAITH FORMATION BEGINS A NEW YEAR

September brought the beginning of a new year of faith formation at Trinity United Church of Christ. Sunday School returned during worship, and our Confirmation class began a new year of learning and growing together with 4 students. We also introduced our new Faith Formation Station, offering another way for children and families to engage with their faith throughout the church year.



TRINITY UCC IN OUR COMMUNITY

September gave Trinity UCC several opportunities to celebrate and connect with our wider community. Wyandot County marked its 175th County Fair, where several members of our church family participated in the week's activities. We were also part of the 25th Annual Upper Sandusky Autumn Cruise & Car Show, where we welcomed visitors with water, popcorn, and a friendly face from our church family.

Heritage Sunday

Celebrating Faithfulness Through the Generations

On October 25, Trinity UCC will celebrate Heritage Sunday, honoring the members whose faithfulness and commitment have helped shape our church through the years. This year, we are pleased to welcome four members into our 50-Year Member Roll.

OUR NEWEST 50-YEAR MEMBERS

To be inducted October 25, 2026

Deb Amos · Tom Young · Carole Young · Kim Newman

ROLL OF 50-YEAR MEMBERS

Betty Bennett — 1948
David Larcomb — 1949
Jocelyn Cancro — 1951
Larry Newman — 1951
Elaine Grundtisch — 1952
Phyllis Caldwell — 1954
Patricia Morris — 1956
Linda DeBolt — 1959
Barbara Wymer — 1959
Lucille Swinehart — 1960
Barbara Batton — 1960
Jon Grundtisch — 1960
Sandy Fox — 1961
Judy Reber — 1963
Barbara Reinhard — 1963
Shari Kraus — 1964
Barb McEldowny — 1964
Vicky Clinger — 1965
Jerry Lawrence — 1965
Jeff Eier — 1965
Sue Heckathorn — 1965

Tom Veith — 1965
Kathy Kinley — 1965
Howard Ward — 1966
Becky Quinn — 1966
Dan Schoenberger — 1966
Fran Broadman — 1966
Carolyn Rife — 1967
Freda Beamer — 1970
Doug Bennett — 1970
Cathy Roberts — 1971
Gary Veith — 1971
Tom Pagnard — 1971
Marla Himmeger — 1972
Mary Long — 1972
Alison Tracy — 1973
Chuck Roberts — 1973
Lisa McClain — 1974
Natalie Young — 1974
Betty Jo Shoup — 1975
Carolyn Ward — 1975

A Member's Perspective

Being a member of this church all my life means having a lifetime of memories, friendships, and faith woven into the fabric of who I am. I remember playing my snare drum for the congregation, taking part in the live nativity scene before every Christmas, and spending Sunday mornings in Sunday school classes. Now, one of the greatest blessings is being able to raise my three daughters in that same church and watch them create their own memories in the very place where so many of mine were made. There is something special about seeing them grow up surrounded by the same faith, traditions, and people who have been such an important part of my life. This church has been a part of my story from the very beginning, and I'm grateful that it is now becoming such a meaningful part of my daughters' stories too.

-Eric Pagnard

Message from the Pastor

The second chapter of Paul's letter to the Philippians talks about looking beyond ourselves and working in unity with each other to imitate Christ's humility. Paul's letter to the first-century Philippians has a contemporary message for us about how to live in unity. He asks the people of Philippi to be of the same mind – to agree with each other, to have the same love for one another, to be friends who look to the interests of each other.

When talking about being a good friend, I am always reminded of the ten rules that Norman Vincent Peale listed in *The Power of Positive Thinking* that related to being a good friend, or the kind of person whom others enjoy being around:

1. Learn to remember names.
2. Be a very comfortable person so there is no strain in being with you – be an old-shoe, old-hat kind of individual. Be homey.
3. Acquire the quality of relaxed, easy-goingness so that things don't ruffle you.
4. Don't be egotistical. Guard against giving the impression that you know it all. Be normal and naturally humble.
5. Cultivate the quality of being interesting so that people will want to be with you and get something of stimulating value from their association with you.
6. Work to get the "scratchy" elements out of your personality.
7. Sincerely attempt to heal, on an honest Christian basis, every misunderstanding you have had and now have. Drain off your grievances.
8. Practice liking people.
9. Never miss an opportunity to say a word of congratulations upon anyone's achievement, or express sympathy in sorrow or disappointment.
10. Get a deep spiritual experience so that you have something to give people that will help them to be stronger and meet life more effectively. Give strength to people and they will give affection to you.

My friends, as we work to love one another as Christ loves each of us, and as we work to be a friend to others, we would do well to listen to Paul's advice to the Philippians. He asks them, and us, to imitate Christ...to transform ourselves...and that is only accomplished as we empty ourselves, as we open ourselves to the in-filling of the Spirit of God. Humble yourself. Empty yourself. Make space for the in-filling of God's spirit that will lead to the willingness and ability to live in God's way...and to be a friend to all! May God Bless You in this journey!

Window Project Update

Final measurements have been completed by Bigelow Glass, and installation is anticipated to begin in the coming days. We look forward to seeing this important preservation project move into its next phase.

WINDOW PROJECT PROGRESS
\$156,875 Raised of \$180,000 Goal

Giving to the project has also gotten easier. Donations can now be made directly through our website. Simply click the Donate Now button on the homepage, which will take you to the Online Giving, and select Window Preservation.

Consistory Highlights

During its August and September meetings, Consistory discussed several projects and activities underway at Trinity United Church of Christ and Camp Trinity. A deep cleaning of the sanctuary was approved, along with several property repairs. Updates were also shared on the stained-glass window preservation project, with Bigelow Glass expected to begin work in the coming weeks. Plans for the chapel/fellowship room progressed from initial discussion in August to approval in September. Consistory approved a new floor plan featuring pub tables at the back of the room and agreed to move forward with new furniture. A budget of up to \$20,000 was authorized for the project, with a generous \$10,000 gift already pledged toward the improvements. Camp Trinity was also a focus of discussion. Members considered needed updates to the lodge, bathrooms and children's play area. Tree harvesting on the property was approved, and Consistory plans to consider additional lodge improvements during the winter months. Outreach continues to be an important focus. Plans were made to distribute popcorn and water during the September car show, treats before the Halloween parade, and to once again serve hot chocolate during Home for the Holidays in December. Church membership remains at 245. Looking ahead, Heritage Sunday will be celebrated October 25, and a special communion service for the confirmation class is being planned for next spring.

Want to read more? Full Consistory meeting minutes are available on upperucc.org. Visit the Consistory page and find the meeting minutes link at the bottom.

Church History Corner



On October 14, 1928, members of our congregation gathered for the cornerstone-laying ceremony of the church building we still call home today. Earlier that year, the congregation approved plans for a new church, estimated to cost approximately \$65,000. Members responded with gifts and pledges to help make the new building possible. Nearly a century later, we continue the work begun by those who came before us-caring for this historic building so it can serve generations yet to come.

Cornerstone Laying Ceremony • October 14, 1928

Fall & Advent at Trinity UCC

OCTOBER

- 11 Fellowship Time following worship
Consistory Meeting following worship
Faith Formation Station during Consistory
- 14 Endowment Meeting- 6:00 pm
- 18 CE Board- 9:00 am
Harvest Party at Camp Trinity 3-6pm
*Pumpkin decorating, games, trunk-or-treat, and dinner provided.
Cornbread and dessert volunteers welcome!*
- 25 Heritage Sunday
Induction and recognition of our 50-year members
- 29 Halloween Parade- Stop by for Treats!

NOVEMBER

- 1 All Saints' Day
Fellowship Time following worship
- 8 Consistory Meeting following worship
Faith Formation Station during Consistory
- 15 CE Board- 9:00 am
- 26 Thanksgiving Day
- 29 First Sunday of Advent
Communion Sunday

DECEMBER

- 5 Home for the Holidays
Hot Chocolate during the Christmas Parade
- 6 Fellowship Time following worship
- 13 Youth Christmas Program during worship
Special Congregational meeting after worship
Consistory Meeting to follow
- 20 CE Board- 9:00 am
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service- 7:00 pm

Caring & Sharing



OCTOBER
Canned Carrots



NOVEMBER
Canned Fruits



DECEMBER
Cheerios

*Donations may be placed in
the Caring & Sharing
collection area in the back of
the church*

Poinsettias

*Help beautify our sanctuary
for Christmas*



Watch your email and
church bulletins in
November for
poinsettia order
forms.



*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

DID YOU KNOW?

New Tax Benefit for Charitable Giving

Beginning in 2026, taxpayers who take the standard deduction may also be able to deduct qualifying charitable cash contributions- up to \$1000 for individuals and \$2000 for married couples filing jointly. Your gifts to Trinity United Church of Christ may now provide a tax benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions. *Please consult your tax professional regarding your individual situation.*

LEND A HAND

There are many ways to be part of church life this season. Interested in helping? Let us know!

Sunday School

Help nurture the faith of our youngest members. Volunteers are needed to help teach Sunday School during worship.

Deck the Halls

Help prepare our church for the Advent and Christmas season. Volunteers will be needed to decorate the church and serve hot chocolate at *Home for the Holidays*.

Cookie Trays

Help us share a little Christmas cheer with our homebound members. Volunteers will be needed to bake cookies and help assemble Christmas trays.

Stay Connected



Website



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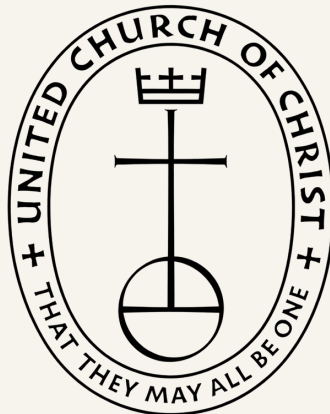
Worship With Us

Sunday Service
10:00am

Office Hours
Wednesday
12:30-2:00pm

Visit Us
300 North Sandusky Ave
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351

Contact
419.294.4244
office@upperucc.org



Church Leadership

Pastor

Rev. Bradley McKibben

Church Officers

- Julia Lemire- President
- Jeff Amos- Vice President
- Tyler McEldowny- Secretary
- Mitchell Rall- Treasurer
- Deb Amos- Auditor

Staff

- Barb Batton- Custodian
- Louise Lortz- Organist
- Kathryn Rall- Office Manager
- Pam Rowland- Music Director