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Graduation

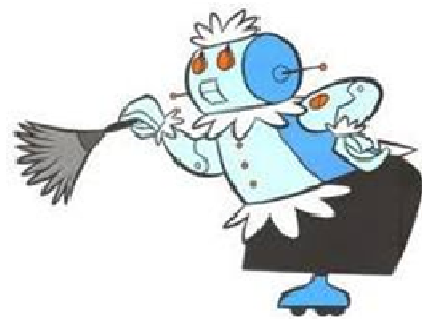
Congratulations to our graduates this year –

- Emily Morin (BGSU)
- Ben Ganger (BGSU)
- Natalie Avery (BGHS)
- Lucy Pullins (Otsego)

We wish you all the very best with your future plans and pray God's blessings on you as you enter a new chapter in your lives!

Spring Cleaning

Spring Cleaning here at Trinity will be on Saturday, June 9th. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Information Station for those wishing to help.



Freedom School 2018

Trinity has committed to providing a \$1,000 scholarship for Freedom School 2018 at Monroe Street Neighborhood Center in Toledo. We invite you to donate in order to help us reach this goal.

Trinity United Methodist Church
200 N Summit Street
Bowling Green, OH 43402

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Or current resident



Three Little Words... "Running Through Thistles"

By Pastor Dana Ward

I appreciate the essay, written some 40 years ago by Alban Institute consultant Roy Oswald, about "Running Through Thistles." In it, Roy recounts that when he was a young boy "growing up in rural Saskatchewan" the quickest way home from school "was over the fields." It was shorter ... but occasionally I would come upon enormous thistle patches."

So, he and his older brothers either had "to [slowly] walk around them or find the narrowest gap and sprint" across. He writes, "I can still vividly remember the experience: running full speed in bare feet across 20 feet of prickly thistles yelping in pain all the way through." At the end, there were always a few thistles stuck in his feet, but the ordeal was over.

This, he writes, is how many of us pastors manage our departure from a church. We deal with our farewells by just plunging in. We know it is going to hurt, so we rush full speed ahead just hoping to get it over with.

It is, after all, the human urge is to avoid pain. But, the reality is that "the way out is the way through." The way through is the hard way of mindfully accepting some pain rather than avoiding it. The way through is doing the hard and prolonged work that change and grief requires.

I commend your new pastor, Rev. Andrea Curry, to you and I know that the best way I can help her get off to a good start is to carefully and intentionally say farewell to all of you. So, as I bring closure to my various roles, functions and relationships here, I will simply offer my gratitude and admiration to you with prayerful consideration, and without "running through thistles."

Church Sign Update

The new church sign for our front corner is on order and will be installed in approximately 8 weeks. If anyone wants to donate to the purchase of this sign, please see Drew Oswald.

Women's Group

Esther Circle's May breakfast meeting will be at East Wooster St. Big Boy on Wednesday, May 9th, at 8:45 a.m. All Trinity women are welcome to come and enjoy a program presented by Suzanne Avery. Good food and fellowship are guaranteed--bring a friend!



Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet at Big Boy on Wooster at 9am on Saturday, May 19th. Invite a friend and join us.



Youth Group

The dates for youth group in May will be on the 6th and 20th from 3:00 to 4:30pm.



May Worship Volunteers

Liturgists

- 5/6 Beverly Miner
- 5/13 Pat Brennehan
- 5/20 Shelby Janes
- 5/27 Betty Jones

Greeters

- 5/6 Beverly Magrum and Carolyn Waltz
- 5/13 Tom Ehmke and Claudia Lance
- 5/20 The Parish Family
- 5/27 Marilyn White and Kay Bell

Acolytes

- 5/6 Abby Oswald and Evie Van Vorhis
- 5/13 Mathias Drumm
- 5/20 Allie and Katie Parish
- 5/27 **Need Volunteer**

Jr. Worship

- 5/6 Beth Van Vorhis
- 5/13 Christie Moser
- 5/20 **Need Volunteer**
- 5/27 **Need Volunteer**

Coffee Hour

- 5/6 **Need Volunteer**
- 5/13 Tom Ehmke and Claudia Lance
- 5/20 Bob and Beverly Miner
- 5/27 **Need Volunteer**

Ushers

- Tom Ehmke, Andy Drumm, Mathias Drumm, Tim Smith
- Ya Tawiah Wonkye, Becky Gibson
- Bill and Nicki Kale



- 5 Steve Shaner
- 6 John Beardsley
Stacey Poppe
- 7 Justus Smith
- 9 Emma Avery
Abby Oswald
- 10 Ruth Ann Kramer
- 12 Ken Robie
- 13 Allie Smith
Nick Bauman
Suzanne Avery
- 17 Judy Hoffer
Autumn Meyer
- 18 Wanda Augsburg
- 26 Braydon Shepherd
- 29 John Riker



Finance Report for March, 2018

We ended the month of March still in the RED, but at least not by as much. Our receipts outpaced expenditures by \$529.55 in March (\$16,538.16 vs \$16,008.61), but if you'll remember we were saddled with a negative balance of \$2,760.08 going into March. That said, April began with a shortfall of \$2,230.53.

As I write this we are now in April and I'm happy to report that the April offerings look promising.

The Pastor has recently encouraged us to focus on our faith, enrich our fellowship with God through prayer and reading God's word and to energize our ourselves through engagement with other believers. I hope you'll join me in doing just that. With some concentration on our faith, some prayer and working together, I believe our financial difficulties will make a turn for the better.

Tim

Higher Education Grants

Trinity is pleased to announce the availability of grants to all church members pursuing higher education. The purpose of this grant is to help members of Trinity UMC who need funding to be able to pursue non-seminary related, accredited higher education including undergraduate, part time or full time, campus or off campus. These funds are earmarked so that they do not affect the general budget of the church. The amount of award is based on the number of applicants and the funds available. Individuals may fill out an application form to be submitted to the church office by June 1st for approval. Applications are available on the Information Station.



Jane, Jenni, and Jon Wyndham would like to thank their church family for all the prayers, cards, casseroles, and well-wishes they had during Harald's pancreatic cancer. Harald said he had "no regrets" in his final days at hospice.



Yes, he will be missed.

Want your child to go to a **Christian summer camp**? Trinity offers scholarships to families who send their children to a Christian summer camp. The scholarship covers half of the cost! If you are interested, please complete an application form and submit it to the church office. The forms are on the information station table in the sanctuary. If you are unfamiliar with summer camp options, visit www.westohiocamps.com.



Introducing a new group here at Trinity... **To-Sew Boutique.**

Learn how to make simple, much needed items for nursing home residents. We will teach you easy techniques for sewing items such as lap robes, bibs, eyeglass cases, walker bags, etc.

Join us for a time of fellowship beginning Thursday, April 26th at 1pm for weekly get-togethers in the church library. And watch for our next announcement... "Mending for Money." For more info, contact Jane Wyndham (419-819-4506) or Mary Nelson (740-412-7475).

The **Missions Spring Rummage Sale** will be Thursday, May 17th and Friday, May 18th from 9am-5pm and Saturday, May 20th 9am to noon. You can start bringing in any items you might want to put in the sale. You may have glassware, dishes, linens, smaller furniture (no beds or mattresses or TVs), medical, tools, and garage/outside items that you don't need any more. We will start working on setting out sale items on Monday, April 30th in the morning and continuing until the week of the sale. We would like no items brought to us after Sunday, May 13th. If you have an hour to give us, that would be great. If you have items and cannot bring them down to the church basement, just let us know by calling the church. Someone will be happy to help you get your items down to the basement.



Welcome Rev. Curry!

Rev. Andrea Curry is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church in the West Ohio Annual Conference. She is married to Will Curry. Together they have a sweet beagle named Franklin and a sassy cat named Trudie. Andrea is a graduate of United Theological Seminary with a Master's degree in Divinity. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Fine Art from Wittenberg University in Springfield Ohio where she grew up. Andrea has served churches in Springfield, Columbus, and is currently serving in Fayette, Ohio.



Andrea is passionate about missional ministry and enjoys helping people discern their gifts and skills to share the good news of the Gospel. She believes the church is not just a building but a group of Jesus followers who strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world around them. Andrea enjoys hearing the life stories of the people with whom she serves in ministry. She strives to live out intentional listening in deep

believes that, "Being heard is so close to being loved that for the average person, they are almost indistinguishable"-David Augsburger. Her favorite scriptures are Deuteronomy 6:4-9, John 3:16, and Ephesians 2:8-10.

In their down time, Andrea and Will enjoy checking out new restaurants, strolling the halls of the Toledo Art Museum, and competing at board games. They love to watch old reruns of Seinfeld and never miss an episode of Survivor. They love to laugh and enjoy making new connections in the community in which they serve. They look forward to joining you in ministry on July 1, 2018 and are praying for you as move through a season of transition.

Trinity has an opening for a **Director of Education and Outreach**. This is a critical staff position at Trinity United Methodist Church. This position oversees all educational curriculum decisions for the church, teaches across a variety of venues, coordinates special church events, and communicates with the various members of the church. The position also includes some facility and general administrative responsibility. This is a part time position. Please apply by May 10th by sending a cover letter stating your motivation, a recent resume and three letters of reference to Staff Parish Relations Team.

Welcome

Relay News ...

The Trinity Relay For Life Team is continuing to raise funds for the American Cancer Society with the following fundraisers:



Luminaria – The TUMC team is selling luminaria to honor those who have won or lost their battle with cancer. The cost per luminaria is \$10. The luminaria will be set up at the Wood County Fairground the night of Relay. They will be lit, and the name of the person honored will be read during the Luminaria Ceremony at 9:30pm. Our team receives full fundraising credit if our team name is noted on the order form. Forms are available at the Information Station.

Website: Donations can be made to our team at www.relayforlife.org/woodco. When you select the Donate button, another box opens up. Select “Donate to a team”. The list of teams will open up. Scroll down to Trinity UMC and select the “Donate” button. Luminaria can also be ordered on the website.

The Opening Ceremony is at 11:00am on Saturday, May 19th and the event runs until 11:00pm. Highlights include a Survivor/Caregiver Reception at 1:00pm, a Live Auction at 2:00pm (Led by TV 11 Anchorman, Jerry Anderson), and a Raffle until 6:00pm.

Evie Van Vorhis will be singing the National Anthem at the Opening Ceremony as well as a couple other songs during the Survivor’s Lap around 11:30am.

In addition to the Relay, there will be a Car Show to benefit the Relay. If you would like to enter a car, registration forms for the show are at the Information Station.

As this is a family event, we are adding the Kids Power Hours from 2pm to 5pm. For a \$5 donation to Relay, your child/grandchild will receive a wristband that allows them to participate in all children’s activities at many campsites, an Easter Egg Hunt at 3pm, Trick or Treating at 3:30pm (costume optional), and entrance into the Bounce House.

Mark your calendar today to attend the Relay For Life of Southern Wood County on Saturday, May 19th at the Wood County Fairgrounds. This is a community event and **everyone** is invited to attend.

Thanks again for all your support.



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 3p Worship at Heritage Corner | 2 | 3 National Day of Prayer 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir | 4 8a Red Cross Blood Drive | |
| 6 8:30a Service 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Trad Worship 3p Youth Group | 7 | 8 Election Day 3p Worship at Brookdale | 9 8:45a Esther Circle | 10 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir | 11 | |
| 13 Mother's Day 8:30a Service 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Trad Worship | 14 7p Finance Meeting | 15 3p Worship at BG Manor 7p 4-H Meeting | 16 | 17 9a Rummage Sale 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir | 18 9a Rummage Sale | 19 9a Men's Group 9a Rummage Sale 11a Relayfor Life |
| 20 8:30a Service 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Trad Worship 3p Youth Group | 21 6:30p Committees 7p SPRC Mtg 8p Ad Council Mtg | 22 3p Worship at BG Care Center | 23 3p Worship at Woodhaven | 24 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir | 25 | |
| 27 8:30a Service 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Trad Worship | 28 Memorial Day CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |