TRINITY & NORTH UNION NEWSLETTER

February 2024

Current Sermon Series *"Bloodlines: The Genealogy of Jesus"* February 4 – "From the Exile and Back"

Table of Contents:



Upcoming Sermon Series "The Lord's Prayer"

February 11 – "Our Father Who Art in Heaven" February 18 – "Hallowed Be Thy Name" March 3 – Guest Preacher March 10 – "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread" March 17 – "Forgive Us of Our Trespasses" March 24 – "Lead Us Not into Temptation"



Service Times:

<u>Sundays</u>

8:00 Trinity Worship in The Gate (Room 20)9:15 Trinity Worship in the Sanctuary and Online Worship

10:45 North Union Worship in the Sanctuary







trinitychurchofvanwert@gmail.com northunionchurchofvanwert@gmail.com



Stop and Pray

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." -Philippians 4:6-7

With everything going on in the world today, many people lack peace. Because we have a relationship with God and therefore have peace, we should consider ourselves to be "prayer missionaries." When we encounter someone who has a need, an illness, or a concern, we need to realize this is an opportunity for us to "stop and pray." Usually in our conversations we would ask, "How are you doing?" If the person mentions their concerns, then that is the opportunity for us to "stop and pray." Or if we interact with children on a regular basis, we know they have many requests during the day. We can pick one of those requests and say, "Let's stop right now and pray about this." God will fill their heart, and they will experience peace. This is the same for both children and adults. If we want peace, we need to have the presence of God in our lives and praying invites God to be present.

Don't let the doubt stop us from stopping and praying. We may think, "What happens if they are not healed or if their request is not answered?" Don't worry, just pray. God will respond. Even if the request is not answered the way they want it, at least they will feel the presence of God and therefore more peace in their hearts.

Here's an example of "stopping and praying" -1.Thanks for telling me what is going on with you.2.Can I pray a short prayer for you?3.God, please help, heal, or provide.... (for this specific need)4.Thanks again for sharing! I will continue to pray for you.



After doing those steps, you have just "stopped and prayed." It does take courage, but it gets easier and easier as we "stop and pray" often. So, let us be prayer missionaries and bring God's peace here in our community of Van Wert. Amen!

And please join us in our next sermon series during Lent that will focus on the Lord's Prayer!

~Pastor David

Pastor David To 419-306-5509 pastordavidto@gmail.com

💮 Kid's Ministry News

February Nursery Helpers at Trinity:

February 4th-

February 18th-

9:15am: Gracie Price & Rachelle Bagley

February 11th-

9:15am: Sheila Banos & Cheryl Mendenhall

9:15am: Deb Knodel & Kathy Neal

February 26th-

9:15am: Gracie Price & Jen Calayo

Children's Sunday School at Trinity:

All little ones 2 and under are welcome to stay in the nursery during the Sunday School time so that their parents can go to class more easily. Thank you to the Next Level & Sojourner's Classes for providing the volunteers so that we can do this!

All children in preschool through 5th grade are welcome to join us in Sunday School at Trinity as we continue to grow our faith and friendships.

Children's Sunday School is a continuation of what the kids are learning during Children's Church. Each week, they will read the bible story together using a book or a Children's Story Bible. They will also do a craft or activity.

The Children's Sunday School Class is led by a rotation of teachers.

February's leaders are:

February 4-**Rachelle Bagley** February 11-**Nancy Eberle** February 18-**Doreen Krugh** February 25-**Marie Markward**

Trinity's Children's Church:

February's Memory Verse:

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." ~1 Corthinthians 10:31~

February 4th-

Bible Story: Moses, Part 4 **Leaders:** Nancy Eberle & Marie Markward <u>February 11th –</u>

Bible Story: Catch Up Lesson **Leaders:** Amy Prichard & Robin Farris

February 18th-

Bible Story: Aaron & Hur Leaders: Amy & Jay Prichard <u>February 25th</u> – Bible Story: Caleb Leaders: Nancy Eberle & Malinda Mackie

💮 Kid's Ministry News

North Union's Children's Church:

February's Memory Verse:

"We love because He first loved us." ~1 John 4:19~

February 4th-

Communion Sunday-Children stay in service with Activity Bags

February 18th-

Bible Story: "King David Prays" (Psalm 59:1-10)

<u>February 11th –</u>

Bible Story: "Wolves in Sheep's Clothing" (Matthew 7:15-30) Leader: Vicky Racster **Leader:** Joy Short <u>February 25th</u> –

> **Bible Story:** "Fools are Like Dogs" (Proverbs 26:11) **Leader:** Nancy Eberle

For any questions about the Children's Programs: Please contact: Nancy Eberle in the church office

or Amy Prichard 419-513-0735.



Trinity & North Union are still looking for the right people to fill our open positions.

Children's Ministry Director Youth Ministry Director -OR-Family Ministries Director (both)

For more information: Contact Pastor David, the Church Office, Lisa Stemen, or Christy Short

Youth Ministry News

Trinity and North Union Global Methodist Churches Youth Schedule February 2024

February 7th– 6:30-8:00 pm at Trinity **Cereal Bowl 2024** Which cereal will be this year's winner?

February 14th – NO YOUTH GROUP

Please attend Ash Wednesday Service at Trinity at 7pm

February 21st – 6:30 to 8:00pm at Trinity

Viral Video Game Challenges

All those games you see people playing in videos online, we're going to try them!

February 28th–6:30 to 8:00pm at Trinity Ice Cream Sundae Night & Seran Ball Game

For any questions about the Youth Programs, please contact Ruth To, 614-607-3533, ruthto14@gmail.com

Financial Reports

North Union Finance Report December 2023 (December 31-January 28)

Offering: \$6125.00

Trinity Finance Report (December 10-January 10)

Income: \$47,419.01 Expenses: \$28,229.68



Trinity & North Union Information, Reminders, & Upcoming Events

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY



When God calls us to himself, He sets us apart. He makes us holy, but what does it mean to be holy? What habits define God's people, no matter where they are on earth or which denomination they are a part of? In this four-session series, Pastor Derwin Gray explores four foundational behaviors of Christians. God calls us to a new way of living that is formed by rhythms of holiness.

February 22 – Making Peace in a World of Conflict February 29 – Being Shaped by Scripture March 14 - Seeking and Saving the Lost March 21 - Resting in a Weary World





Questions: See Pastor David

Childcare is available-see Nancy Eberle if need

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner



LET'S GET TO KNOW OUR CHURCH FAMILY!

Groups of 6-8 will meet for a meal, fun, and games! Only the host family will know who is coming to the meal Enjoy the surprise and the fellowship! Sign-Up and Join the Fun!

New Year...New Women's Group "Generations"

Women aged 18-Infinity and beyond from Trinity & North Union

February 19th at 6:30-8:00 pm The Gate @ Trinity Join Us!

⊃"Generations"

Becoming a Christian

Becoming a Christian (Christ-follower):

(This is a follow up to Jane Schmid's sermon on December 31st) Jesus is calling. He wants to meet the deepest need of your soul: Life, Hope, Healing!

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." -Jesus (Matthew 11:28-30)

He wants to bless you with abundant life here and now, and eternal life (eternity with Him). Answering Jesus' call requires an exchange—giving up control of your life and choosing to live for Him as His disciple (follower).

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. -Jesus (Luke 9:23-24)

Answering Jesus' Call

Admit I'm a sinner and agree/confess to Him

Believe the Jesus died for my sin and rose from the dead conquering sin and death, something I could not do for myself

Choose to be in relationship with Him by asking Him to live in you and committing to live for Him

The Promise/Blessing:

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." (Romans 10:9-11)

What Next? (How to grow)

If you made the incredibly important decision to follow Christ, you are now in the family of God! What's next?

- 1. Tell someone. This is a new amazing life-giving relationship. Don't keep it a secret!
- 2. Write down the date somewhere you will see. Don't let the enemy discount what happened or try to convince you the relationship isn't real.
- 3. Commit to reading His word. This is God talking to you. Read a section of one of the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) daily. Read the same section every day of the week and think on it. What is the message? What does it say to me? Who is Jesus? How can I apply what I read?
- 4. Attend church regularly for accountability and encouragement, fellowshipping with people on the same journey. Consider a step of faith with regular attendance at a bible study or join a small group.
- 5. Pray daily. This is you talking to God. Thank God for what you have and ask Him for what you need—strength, courage, direction, persistence.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Jesus (Matthew 5:6)

No matter when in your life you answered Jesus' call, spiritual growth is vital! Continue to increase your knowledge by consistently nurturing this relationship (steps 3-5).

We'd love to help you in your journey. Call 419-238-9541 so we can encourage and guide you.

Prayer Concerns

Our members and friends who are home-bound:

Ruth Frysinger Joe Sheldon Janet & Dale Schaadt

Our members and friends who are in Hearth and Home:

Richard & Carolyn Good Wendy Howell

Our members and friends who are in Van Crest:

Joan Adams Cindy Jones Carla Speelman

Our members and friends who are in Homestead at Towne Center:

Margaret Evans Jane Harter Dolores Keysor

Our members and friends who are in Country Inn Enhanced Living Center:

Lois Schoonover

Those Serving Around the World:

Brooks Ludwig-Marines



Our thoughts and prayers are will **Del Free** at the death of her brother-in-law.

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Aryn Proctor** at the death of her uncle.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of **Dean Froelich** at his death.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of **Don Chiles** at his death.

Recent Prayer Concerns:

Collins Royer- heart surgery-she is the baby daughter of Colton (a teacher at VWCS) & Terrill Royer

Janet Miller-brain surgery

Stephanie Meffered -(Rick Eberle's co-worker) breast cancer

Justin Reynolds-health issues

Jeff Krugh-cancer and complications from surgery

Deanna Mosier-hospitalized for pain

Denise McCreary-(mother of Marsh Foundation Youth)-uterine cancer

Prayer Concern Updates:

- Linda Kramer-her heart issues are MUCH better; no longer needs "life box"
- **Ruth Girod-**is back in the hospital with pain issues. When she returns home, she would love visitors.
- **Ben Price**-is doing much better from his surgery but is still having some pain and numbness

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Joel Frysinger-Health Issues Ruth Frysinger-Health Issues Noah Girod Ed Schlenker-Health Issues Tom Short-Healing

To add prayer concerns to our list:

Contact the church office

- Write it on the Yellow Cards from the pews and put it in the offering box
- Contact Pastor David

To be added to the "Prayer Chain Text

Alerts", please contact the church office at the number or email below.

Nancy Eberle Church Office Administrator 419-238-9541 trinitychurchofvanwert@gmail.com or northunionchurchofvanwert@gmail.com

Celebrations

February Birthdays:

- 2-Joan Swank
 3-Ciara Miller Kayla Miller
 6-Pam Knodel
 7-Susan Mosier
 8-Alexandria Hamrick Tayler Carter
 9-Adam Sealscott
 9-Adam Sealscott
 10-Cody Lape Kean Calayo
 13-Nancy Frantom April Burkhart Graham Swander Paxton Schlemmer
- **14-**Sammi Sellers **16-**Donna Welker
- 17-Kenadi Short
- 18-Nicholas Druckemiller
- **21-**Melissa Clay Brad Mendenhall John Ream
- 22-Walter Bartz
- 24-Wanda Evans
- **26-**Erica Clay Marisa Kreinbihl
- **28-**Ben Price

February Anniversaries:

15-Ron & Melissa Mengerink



Please contact the church office if you know of a birthday or anniversary that needs added, deleted, or edited on our list. We love sharing the good news of weddings, babies & grandbabies. Please let us know so we can share your good news.





On December 17th , we officially welcomed to our church family:

Mike & Judy McOmber

Welcome



Congratulations to **Nick & Heather Ruggiero** on the birth of their daughter, **Gemma Rose** on December 16.

Grandparents are **Gary & Tammy Nihiser**

Congratulations to **Scott & Melissa Wagner** on the birth of their daughter,

Rosemary Grace on December 27. Grandparents are **Aaron & Teresa Gardner**



Shut In Spotlight

In 2024, each month we will "Spotlight" one or a couple of our Shut In's or Members living in nursing homes.

This month's "Spotlight" is Dolores Keysor

Dolores is became of member of Trinity on August 27, 2023. She lives at Homestead at Towne Center. She loves to have visitors and receive cards, especially right now when her daughter and son-on-law, Kris & Jim Snyder are in Arizona for the winter. She is so grateful for all the gifts the "Caring Friends" group brings her each month. She said that it means a lot to remembered at her age. She would love to attend church but knows that she can't.



Volunteer Spotlight

In 2024, each month we will "Spotlight" a group of our volunteers.

This month's "spotlight" is the SPRC Committee

The SPRC committee's role is hiring of staff, staff evaluations, and staff appreciation. The board meets typically every other month. This is the only committee that has both Trinity & North Union members on it.

Members of SPRC

Lisa Stemen-Trinity Chair Christy Short-North Union Chair Anna Dunlap Cheryl Gehres Susan Mosier Delores Myers Darcie Price Ray Ridenour Jane Schmid Pastor David-staff



Trinity's Food Pantry Focus

The Focus for February is PASTA.

Thank you for your donations in January.

Of course, any monetary donations, other items, and plastic bags are always appreciated, too! **NOTE:** We don't need mac and cheese dinners; we have plenty of those. Also, plastic jars, rather than glass, are preferred for the spaghetti sauce.



February is a Food Pantry Month at North Union

Items needed this month are: Kid's Cereal, Canned Fruit, & Grape Jelly







Cooperative Food Pantry Monetary Donations



The Cooperative Ministries Food Pantry depends on both monetary donations and donations of items. Monetary donations are used to purchase items both locally and from the West Ohio Food Bank.

At Trinity: You can give a monetary donation through your mission offering (just designate "food pantry" on the back of your envelope).

At North Union: You can give a monetary donation through your regular offering (just designate "food pantry" on the back of your envelope or on your check).

Souper Bowl of Caring Being Held at North Union



On Sunday, February 11 (Super Bowl Sunday), the kids at North Union will have Soup Pots at the doors as you leave service. Bring your loose change and bills and help fill the pots. ALL money collected will be given to the Cooperative Food Pantry.

YWCA "Chase the Chill" Collection



While we are still in the "winter mood," we are getting a head start on a collection that will "officially" be done in the fall! We are collecting NEW hats, gloves, and scarves for children and adults. These items will be placed in local parks in November so that people in need can take them.

At Trinity-place your items on the table by the missions center **At North Union**-place your items in the Children's room for us to bring back to Trinity

Getting to Know Those That We Support

We would like to familiarize you with both the organizations and the missionaries that were supported by Trinity's congregation, financially and otherwise, in 2023. Last month we focused on the organizations that were supported in 2023 and will likely continue to be supported in 2024. This month we will focus on the missionaries that were supported in 2023 and will likely be supported again in 2024. If you don't see an organization or a missionary that you think is deserving of our support, it only means that there was no support given through the church in 2023. At any time, you may designate your mission offering to an organization or missionary of your choice, regardless of whether it is listed, as long as you let us know how to properly direct the money that you give.

Steve and Bonnie Aldrich One Challenge International – Colorado Springs, CO



Steve and Bonnie Aldrich have been serving with OC International since 1973. They are involved in training young leaders and missionaries, particularly by conducting Lifeworkx events throughout the world. Lifeworkx is a self-discovery experience focusing on how well people know themselves and how well they work with others. Steve and Bonnie have two adult daughters, Amy and Kristin.

Amy Bromberg Cru/Athletes in Action – Fairborn, OH



Amy Bromberg ministers to college athletes and coaches in the Dayton area. Currently there are 9 schools with an AIA presence: Cedarville, Central State, Dayton, Sinclair, Urbana, Wilberforce, Wilmington, Wittenberg, and Wright State. Amy's husband, Jason, is a teacher in the Springboro Community School District.

Tim and Beth Burden Father Son Gospel Mission – Newark, OH



After pastoring various churches for many years, Tim and Beth Burden moved out of their last parsonage in October 2021. They are now doing short-term mission trips, plus Tim still has opportunities to do counseling, preach and teach, and mentor. Tim and Beth have three adult sons (Matt, David, and Jonathan) and an adult daughter, Rachel. Their son Matt has devoted much of his life to mission work in various capacities. He has a particular love for the Latino population. Matt is currently an associate pastor at St. Paul's Church in Findlay, OH, but he will continue to lead

mission teams to Cuba and other nations with Father Son Gospel Mission, the mission agency that he and his dad formed in 2016.

Cameron and Anne Gongwer

TMS Global Resource Team - South Bend, IN/Ghana



Cameron and Anne Gongwer lived in Ghana for fourteen years, where Cam served as a physician at Methodist Faith Healing Hospital and Anne served on the staff of the Reading Town Library. In 2012, the Gongwers joined the Global Resource Team. Cam leads Crosspoint Global Health, an outreach in developing countries that works alongside national churches and medical services for transforming communities into healthier places to live. He and Anne keep in touch with the staff at the hospital and library in Ghana to offer support. Cam and Anne have one adult daughter, Caylor.

Jessica Hall Cru/Bridges International – Haslett, MI



Jessica Hall ministers to the many international students at Michigan State University. The goal of Bridges is to serve, promote social connections, and engage in spiritual conversations with international students so that they become leaders internationally. Jessica and her husband, Stuart, who works as a civil engineer, have three children: Alaine (Lainey), Benjamin, and Micah.

Chad and Andi Irwin Mission Aviation Fellowship – Nampa, ID



Chad and Andi Irwin have served with MAF since 1999. During their 15 years of living and working in Shell, Ecuador, Chad served as the chief pilot, and Andi worked at the Nate Saint Memorial School where their children attended. During the latter part of their ministry in Ecuador, Chad was instrumental in helping the Ecuador program transition to a nationally run entity. Of course, this meant that eventually Chad and Andi would leave Ecuador to allow the staff there to reach their full potential in leading the ministry. In July 2016, the family relocated in Nampa, Idaho, the site of MAF headquarters, where Chad is involved in recruiting and

training new pilots to serve with MAF worldwide. Chad and Andi have two adult children, Josiah and Olivia.

Lori McFall One Mission Society/HOPE61 – Greenwood, IN



Lori has been with One Mission Society since 1999. After serving with her family in the Philippines for nine months and in the Republic of Ireland for two years, she began working at OMS World Headquarters. She served in the Communications Department for 14 years, first in One Mission Kids and then for 10 years as editor. Lori McFall now serves as a trainer with HOPE61, the human trafficking prevention ministry of One Mission Society. Her focus is with churches in the United States, providing training to help them develop a plan to identify and minister to those in their

communities who are vulnerable to becoming involved in the problem. Lori and her husband, Cris, who works for Eli Lilly, have two adult children, Andrea and Ben.



Ralph Roberts Ralph Roberts Ministries – Milton, FL



Ralph Roberts became interested in foreign missions and began supporting missionaries at a young age. Doors began to open when he was called to preach at age 16 and began saving for Bible school. He attended Southeastern Bible College and Central Bible College as well as the Alliance Francais in Lausanne, Switzerland, where he learned French. He has spoken in over 500 churches in 20 nations and established many foreign churches. He has taught courses in several Bible schools and lectured in universities including the Sorbonne in Paris, France and the University of Moscow. He has been a successful evangelist, taught marriage seminaries, and

spoken in many conferences. Ralph plays guitar and sings in English, French, and Russian.

Brian and Beth Schwartz Wycliffe Bible Translators – the Philippines



Brian Schwartz went to the Philippines as a missionary in 2008. There he met Beth, and they were married in 2010. Brian and Beth partner in Bible translation serving in support roles: Brian as facilities manager for Faith Academy Mindanao (primarily for children of missionaries) and Beth as finance liaison for the Project Funding Management Team. Brian and Beth have a daughter, Rebecca, and an adult son, Jacob.

Jeff and Shauna Spence World Partners - Taiwan



Jeff and Shauna Spence began their ministry in Mongolia in 2006, working with a local non-governmental organization doing small-scale development. They were involved in construction, greenhouse projects, developing small businesses, training local church leaders, and working with Operation Christmas Child. They moved to Taiwan in 2017, and Jeff is now the Regional Strategy Coordinator for North Asia. Jeff and Shauna have four children: Kaylee, Ava, Jeffrey, and Alyssa.

Jane Wise Nuru Ya Mapendo – DR of Congo, Africa



Jane Wise is an Individual Volunteer missionary from the West Ohio Conference serving in the Democratic Republic of Congo. After traveling to Zimbabwe with VIM (Volunteer in Mission) teams in 2006, 2007, and 2009, Jane's husband of 34 years passed away suddenly, and she felt God's call to full-time mission work in Africa. Since 2013, she has served as the Assistant to the District Superintendent of the Kasenga District, as well as working as the Director of Nuru Ya Mapendo ("Love's Light"). Nuru Ya Mapendo provides a community resource center, repair and ural churches, crop and animal production training, and malaria provention and education.

construction of rural churches, crop and animal production training, and malaria prevention and education.

Note: We have one family that is currently in the U.S. but still has connections with a country in which Christian missionaries are not welcome. For their security, they are not included here because the newsletter gets posted on the church's web site. They are on the mission support sheet that you received with your January newsletter.

FEBRUARY 2024 C Start St

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00 pm Bible Study @ Trinity	2	3
Trinity: 8:00 Worship 8:00 Living Hope SS 9:15 Worship & Online Worship 10:30 Sunday School for all other classes 5:00-6:00 Bell & Vocal Choir Rehearsal <u>North Union;</u> 10:45 Worship	5	6 10:00 am Staff Meeting 10:45 am Trinity Worship & Music Meeting 3:45-5:00 pm Kids' Club 7:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	7 Youth Group 6:30-8:00 pm	8 7:00 pm Bible Study @ Trinity	9	10
11 Trinity: 8:00 Worship 8:00 Living Hope SS 9:15 Worship & Online Worship 10:30 Sunday School for all other classes 5:00-6:00 Bell & Vocal Choir Rehearsal <u>North Union:</u> 10:45 Worship	12	13 3:45-5:00 pm Kids' Club 7:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service @ Trinity	15	16	17
18 <u>Trinity:</u> 8:00 Worship 8:00 Living Hope SS 9:15 Worship & Online Worship 10:30 Sunday School for all other classes 5:00-6:00 Bell & Vocal Choir Rehearsal <u>North Union:</u> 10:45 Worship	6:30-8:00 pm Generations Women's Group @ Trinity	20 3:45-5:00 pm Kids' Club 7:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	21 Youth Group 6:30-8:00 pm	22 7:00 pm Bible Study @ Trinity	23	24
25 <u>Trinity:</u> 8:00 Worship 8:00 Living Hope SS 9:15 Worship & Online Worship 10:30 Sunday School for all other classes 5:00-6:00 Bell & Vocal Choir Rehearsal <u>North Union:</u> 10:45 Worship	26	3:45-5:00 pm Kids' Club 7:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	Youth Group 6:30-8:00 pm	29 7:00 pm Bible Study @ Trinity		

Trinity & North Union Churches 220 S. Walnut St. Van Wert, OH 45891

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST WHO WORSHIP PASSIONATELY, LOVE EXTRAVAGANTLY, AND WITNESS BOLDLY.



Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00-4:30 Friday-CLOSED

Contact Us

220 S. Walnut St.

Office Emails:

trinityvw.org