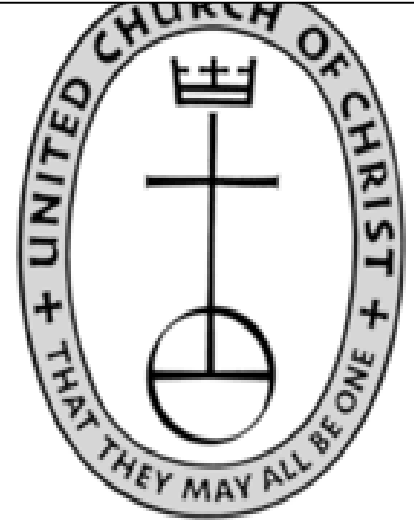


Trinity Tidings

July 2003

What is the meaning of the UCC symbol?

What does the logo symbolize? The symbol of the United Church of Christ comprises a crown, cross and orb enclosed within a double oval bearing the name of the church and the prayer of Jesus, "That they may all be one" (John 17:21). It is based on an ancient Christian symbol called the "Cross of Victory" or the "Cross Triumphant." The crown symbolizes the sovereignty of Christ. The cross recalls the suffering of Christ—his arms outstretched on the wood of the cross—for the salvation of humanity. The orb, divided into three parts, reminds us of Jesus' command to be his "witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The verse from Scripture reflects our historic commitment to the restoration of unity among the separated churches of Jesus Christ.



New Adult Topical Class Offered

"What on earth am I here for?" Do you ever find yourself asking that question? If so, then this class is for you. The jacket notes for The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren says this: "You are not an accident. Even before the universe was created, God had you in mind, and [God] planned you for his purposes. ... Self-help books often suggest that you try to discover the meaning and purpose of your life by looking within yourself, but Rick Warren says that is the wrong place to start. You must begin with God, your Creator, and [God's] reasons for creating you. You were made by God and for God, and until you understand that, life will never make sense.

This book will help you understand why you are alive and God's amazing plan for you—both here and now, and for eternity. Rick Warren will guide you through a personal 40-day spiritual journey that will transform your answer to life's most important question: What on earth am I here for? Knowing God's purpose for creating you will reduce your stress, focus your energy, simplify your decisions, give meaning to your life, and, most important, prepare you for eternity.

The Purpose Drive Life is a blueprint for Christian Living in the 21st Century—a lifestyle based on God's eternal purposes, not cultural values."

If you are interested in this class, please call Pastor Leslie or sign up in the Social Hall. Each participant may want to purchase a copy of the book. Pastor Leslie can order the number of books needed.

This class will be held on 8 consecutive Sundays, beginning August 3. If there is significant interest, Pastor Leslie will also offer this class during the week.

New Member Classes Offered

Have you enjoyed worshipping with Trinity UCC? Have you enjoyed the programs for you and your children? If so, why not officially join this congregation? If you are interested in uniting with this congregation of God's people, please tell Pastor Leslie that you plan to come to one of the following three sessions. Each session is made up of 2 classes. Each class will be held from 6:30 to 8:00 and dinner and childcare will be provided.

Session I: August 12 & 19
Session II: October 14 & 21
Session III: November 11 & 18

Taylor's TUCC Points

Summer is here and that means that there are some changes in our life together. People leave town to go on vacation, some are working diligently on their farms and in their yards. Others are watching and/or coaching various sporting events. Summer is a busy time. However while you are away, the ministry of the church still continues. We still need your encouragement, your financial gifts, and your prayers.

Most churches experience some financial stress during the summer, and unfortunately we are no different. This year, however, we are particularly stressed. I would like you to pay attention to the Treasurer's Report this month. We have had to dip into our savings in order to pay the bills for the church. Why? Because giving has not kept up with expenses. We took a leap of faith in January to say that we wanted to have a full-time pastor and we wanted to be more visible in the community. Well, now it is time to actually put our feet down and not just talk about what we want, but now that it is here, support it.

This year, the Ohio Conference Annual Gathering focused on Stewardship. I thought this was a perfect opportunity for me to learn something new and to share what I have learned with you. I know that some of you would rather I didn't mention anything about money, giving, tithing, stewardship, or financial commitment. I understand that, however, we are all called to support our church's mission and ministry. Stewardship is more than just giving money, it includes giving our time and our experience, our vision and our energy.

I see giving back to the mission and ministry of the church as a privilege, not a burdensome obligation. I have always understood that giving is one of the ways I can express my gratitude for all the blessings God has bestowed upon me. I believe in tithing—giving 10% or more to the church for its general operations as well as for mission. I believe in preaching and teaching about stewardship. I know that if everyone tithed, we would not have a single financial problem. We wouldn't have a problem, because God would multiply the gifts and we would see the blessings multiply as well.

Some may say that they cannot afford to tithe—cannot afford to give 10% of our salaries, or commissions, or bonuses. We may say that our other bills and taxes and tuition etc. takes most of the 90% that would be left over. I started tithing when I lived in Detroit in 1983, as a member of Plymouth Congregational UCC. I lost my job and the economy was horrible. I started tithing out of my unemployment check. The amount of money was not large, but it was still 10% of the check I received. My pastor, Rev. Nicholas Hood, II, reminded me that if I was faithful, God would be faithful. He was right. I found a job about six months later and learned a lot about waiting for God and trusting God to provide that which we need most. In the years since then, I have continued to tithe, trusting God and in thanksgiving to God for all that God has done in my life.

For those of you who do not tithe (or do not give a certain percentage of your income) to the church each week (or each month), I would challenge you to write your church check first—yes, even before the mortgage, the gas bill, the car note. I am not suggesting that you not pay those other bills, but that you include the church as the first among those other priorities. Take that leap of faith and trust God to provide for the rest of your needs. When we act in faith, God is faithful in response.

I want us to practice the spiritual disciplines of prayer, study, generosity and compassion. I want us to remember to leave our offering even when we are on vacation, or away from church. I want to thank those of you who do tithe, or who give a designated percentage of your income to the church. Your support is deeply appreciated and needed. Your gifts to the church make all that we do possible. Dr. Suzanne Webb, Interim Regional Minister for the Christian Church in Ohio has said, "Giving of one's financial resources is a spiritual discipline. This is a way to acknowledge that all life belongs to God and that God has asked us (invited us) to care for life's resources responsibly. Providing at least 10% of our money for the work of ministry is a simple way for Christians to confirm this covenant into which we have been invited. After tithing for some years, many people realize they have no need of the 90% they had formerly claimed as their own and so gratefully give more and more."

I tithe because I love God. I love our church. I love our members. I love being able to engage in meaningful ministries that are possible when we give God the best we have to give.

Let's challenge ourselves to tithe (or increase our giving where possible) from now to the end of the year and let's see what God can do in and through us.

See you in church!
Pastor Leslie

SOCRATES

School-Age Childcare at Trinity United Church of Christ

About two months ago, the Consistory learned that the Thornville Preschool that has been located in our lower level for the past several years will be closing. That means two things for us and for this community: First, that the pre-school children in Thornville will have one less place to go to school in the Fall and that Holly Holdcroft will be unemployed, and Second: Trinity will lose \$150 per month in income.

The Consistory and several members of the church have suggested that we investigate the possibility of starting a Before-School and After-School Childcare program at the church. I have started the process of getting our church licensed to have a school-age childcare program (for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade.)

We are calling the program SOCRATES because when we looked at the acronym SACC at TUCC, the sound reminded me of the Greek philosopher—Socrates. We are hoping to open on August 27 when school begins. SOCRATES will be open before school from 7-9 and after school from 3:40-6:30.

I will serve as the Director and we will need to hire three teachers, My hope is that we will be able to serve 40 children before and after school. This will be a new outreach ministry for our church and will allow us to serve a need for parents and children in our community. SOCRATES will be a non-profit program, however, if the projections are accurate, the church will receive a portion of the income each month to help offset the cost of building use and add to the general fund. SOCRATES will be self-supporting.

I need your prayers. The children in the program will also need your help. We will need school supplies, art supplies, and other program needs. I have developed a Wish/ Needs List that will be included in the bulletin over the next several weeks. We will need to clean and paint the classrooms and get a lot of work done in the next several weeks. If you would like to help with the program, or if you know children who would like to participate in the program, please contact Pastor Leslie.

Attention: Donors Needed

Due to an error on the part of the Red Cross we are a bit behind in scheduling donation times for Saturdays Blood Drive. We now have the proper paper work and will be making phone calls and scheduling blood donors this week. If you do not receive a call before noon Friday July 11th and would like to donate please call Crystal Wilson and walk-ins are always welcome.

There is as always and incredible need for blood. Please remember that by donating your blood you're saving lives.



June Treasurer's Report

	<u>June</u>	<u>Year-to-date</u>
Offerings	\$4,525.50	\$23,183.75
Other Income	1,519.40	9,289.34
Total Income	\$6,044.90	\$32,473.09
Expenses	\$8412.36	\$36,918.11

(Average per Sunday offering in June was \$905.10; average per Sunday offering for the first 26 weeks of the year was \$891.68)

A summary of other giving though the end of June: Our Church's Wider Mission, \$1,163.91; CUE Seminaries, \$46; One Great Hour of Sharing, \$314; Neighbors in Need, \$50; SARA, \$15. Our Building Fund total as of June 30th is \$365.

Come Join the Fun....

Thornville Community Vacation Bible School
Treasures of the Nile
August 4 – 8, 2003
5:00 – 8:00p.m.
Light dinner will be served.
Grace Lutheran Church
Ages 4 – 6th grade
For more info call Kathy Skillman, 743-3264

Dorothy M. Lyle Scholarship Committees

The Committee will be meeting in August to review the applications, which have been received for the 2003-2004 school year.

LIVE VIDEOSTREAMING, DAILY ONLINE NEWSPAPER FROM GENERAL SYNOD

General Synod is the biennial meeting of the United Church of Christ. Representatives of congregations, Conferences and a broad range of interest groups meet every two years to consider the business of the church and its relationship with the wider world.

General Synod used to be an event in which about 3,000 delegates and visitors participated directly. Now it's a churchwide meeting: every UCC member with web access can follow the lively debates, thoughtful Bible study, colorful worship, powerful music and inspiring sermons--as they happen. As in recent years, we bring you live gavel-to-gavel videostreaming and a daily online newspaper at <http://ucc.org>.

Mark your calendars! This year's Synod opens in Minneapolis next Friday, July 11, and continues through Tuesday, July 15.

Our daily online paper will be posted at 11 p.m. (Eastern) with our first issue Thursday night. Coverage will include news and feature stories, a daily photo essay, daily audio reports and audio clips of Bible study and important speeches.

Here's a schedule of some highlights for our live videocast. Note that all times are Eastern. Debates on proposed Synod actions will take place throughout the schedule.

FRIDAY, JULY 11

3:30 p.m.

Opening plenary.

9:00 p.m.

Opening worship: Yvette Flunder.

SATURDAY, JULY 12

9:30 a.m. Bible Study.

Speak Out! [open mike for delegates].

Presentation of new churches.

SUNDAY, JULY 13

9:30 a.m.

Morning Devotion.

Speak Out!

Presentation of the candidate for Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries.

3:30 p.m.

Worship and keynote speaker.

8:30 p.m.

Speak Out!

Presentation of candidate for Associate

General Minister.

Recognition of the ministry of Dale Bishop.

Evening Prayer.

MONDAY, JULY 14

9:30 a.m.

Bible Study.

Speak Out!

Elections.

Budget discussion.

Recognition of the 30th anniversary of Coachella:

See <http://ucc.org/ucnews/may03/coachella.htm>.

8:30 p.m.

Speak Out!

Worship: Lillian Daniel.

TUESDAY, JULY 15

9:30 a.m.

Bible Study.

Speak Out!

Election results.

Budget vote.

3:30 p.m.

Speak Out!

Invitation to General Synod 25 in Atlanta.

Commissioning of new missionaries.

General Synod 24 wrap-up video.

8:30 p.m.

Closing worship: Felix Carrion.

Adjournment.

A more detailed schedule will be published daily at <http://ucc.org>.

We look forward to seeing you online in Minneapolis!

Andy Lang

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The logo for Trinity United Church of Christ, featuring the word "Trinity" in a large, elegant, black serif font. The text is centered within a rectangular box that has a light gray background and a thin black border.

Trinity is a family of faith that welcomes all people to experience and share the love of God through worship, study, nurture and care.

Texts & Titles for July 2003

- July 6, 2003 Community Worship in Shaner Park
Leslie Taylor Preaching
II Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
Mark 6:1-13*
"Sent Out By Jesus"
- July 13, 2003 Mark 6:14-29 Jennifer, two of the songs we will sing on this
Sunday are Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
Psalm 24 and "The Lord of the Dance" (This will be an insert)
II Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19*
"Dance to the Glory of God"
- July 20, 2003 II Samuel 7:1-14a
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
Ephesians 2:11-22*
"The House that God Builds"
- July 27, 2003 II Samuel 11:1-15
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21*
"There's More Where That Came From"