

TRINITY TIMES

In life's darkest moments,
have you ever wondered...



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would venture a guess that we all have made a few phone calls in our lives. I would also venture a guess that we have made a few calls where no one has answered, or we have received a busy signal. If the call is particularly important, getting no response usually creates anxiety and worry. Is something wrong? Is everything ok? Are they upset at me? Receiving no reply from a call or text usually creates great anguish for us; and it happens quite frequently.

Perhaps then we can understand more clearly what the anguish of Gethsemane was truly about. Jesus was praying and getting no response from God. God was not responding, God was not answering, God was silent. To borrow an idea from Thomas Merton, the garden of Gethsemane was a “Dark Night of the Soul.” Not just facing his immanent death, but the great and more terrible anguish was the silence of God the Father. A Father who was always present, mysteriously became absent. A Father who was always speaking, mysteriously became quiet. A Father who always had him in his power and control, hands him over into the hands of sinners. The emotional and spiritual suffering was just as real as the enormous physical suffering, even leading him to utter the famous words, *My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?* Jesus called out to God and God was silent.

We all can relate. Which of us has not had a “Dark Night of the Soul” when we called out to God and we received no reply? Whether God ceases to speak, or God appears absent, we all have had experiences when God is far away or stories to tell about when God is silent. We all have had the time or moment in our lives when God appears distant or when God appears uninvolved, and those moments are moments of great anguish for us. Is God still here? What is going to happen? Is God upset with me? Perhaps the greater part is not the worry and anxiety but the thoughts and feelings of being utterly and completely alone.

When we find ourselves in these “Dark” moments, the rules which we live by must change. No longer can we expect to see the presence of God, no longer can we expect to feel the presence of God instead we must believe in the presence of God. When God appears absent or distant, the only thing we must cling to is the promise of God: *I will be with you always*. We cannot see, we cannot know, we cannot feel, but we can believe. If God said he would never leave, and if God is faithful, then even though I cannot see, or know, or feel, and even if God feels far away, I yet still believe that he is here, because he said so. Perhaps then the greater part of faith is not just understanding, or feeling, or thinking or seeing, but instead surrendering to God; even when we don’t understand, feel, think, or see. Confident only in the promise of God and not the sight of God, a human being yields to God in faith, only because God is faithful and God promised.

My friends, we all have had our Gethsemane moments, when God is silent or distant. But, we will always have the promise of God, which remind us, God never leaves, and God never abandons. In those “Dark” moments and those “Dark” times, let us push forward in faith, yielding our hearts and minds to the God who still is faithful. If he promises to never leave, even when it feels or seems like he already left, let us surrender ourselves to God in faith and believe.

In Christ,

Rev. Mark

NOTE FROM SESSION:

Your session is overseeing the scheduling of several events here at Trinity this spring.

We have the wonderful dilemma of trying to pack several events into a crowded schedule and church building.

The church will be busy on Pentecost Sunday (May 20). That day we will also honor our graduates. So plan to come honor, feast, and play on that day!

Kathy Depp is gathering marvelous merchandise for the rummage sale which will be June 2. We are having to store things in the garage until Faith Builders and others who will be using the Hoyt Room are done in there.

Community Outreach will be serving lunches here during the last week of May and first week of June.

Please remember that if you have any questions or concerns about anything related to Trinity to talk to any of your elders.

Blessings,

Mary Belding, Clerk

**FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR FEBRUARY 2018**

INCOME	\$ 6,352.00
EXPENSES	10,586.84

DIFFERENCE OF	-4,234.84
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LEAVING A BALANCE OF \$ 4,570.79 IN THE OPERATING CHECKING ACCOUNT AT THE END OF FEBRUARY

THE WEEKLY GIVING IS LOWER THAN EXPECTED. HOPEFULLY THAT WILL CHANGE ONCE THE WEATHER GETS BETTER.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR PER CAPITA OF \$30.00. WE HAVE ONLY RECEIVED \$1,035.32 OF THE TOTAL OF THE \$3,450.00 THAT WE HAVE TO PAY TO PRESBYTERY.

THANK YOU,
LOIS J. FASSETT



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION– FAITH BUILDERS

The 2017 through 2018 Faith Builders Program draws to it's end May 20. We will celebrate during the children's sermon when certificates will be given to each child who participated. Bibles will be given to any child who did not receive one last year and anyone who is moving up a level. Everyone enjoyed the program this year. The program will resume on September 9. During the summer movies and games will be provided for the youth during service. Come celebrate with the youth of the church May 20.

May 20th we will also be recognizing our High School and College Graduates. Please contact the church office as soon as possible if you have a graduate. We would feel really bad if we missed acknowledging such a special day.

Keeping track of our college students is quite a task.....we would appreciate if you would please update your students address with the church office as well.

We are looking for volunteers to be on call for the nursery over the summer. We are asking you to sign up for the nursery one Sunday this summer. You would be on call. If anyone needs the nursery you would leave church and be in the nursery for the service. If there is no need for the nursery that day you would stay in church.

VBS WILL BE JUNE 25TH THROUGH THE 29TH. PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO SAVE YOUR CHILDREN AND THEIR FRIENDS A SPOT. REGISTRATION WILL BE LIMITED.

Please see Beth Dougherty if you have any questions



eden project

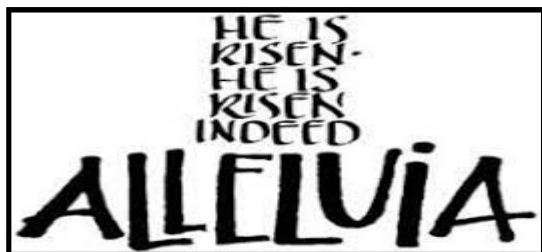
Spring is upon us!

It is time to begin work in our gardens.

The Faith Builders will again be starting seeds for the garden on April 8. It is a delight watching little hands learn the joy of gardening.

We will also gladly accept any help in the garden. We have fourteen separate planting areas. Get a friend, and take charge of one of them! If your bones are not willing to bend and stoop, ask a couple of the young folks to do the work under your guidance. What a treat to grow food and relationships together!

Blessings, Joyce Kren and Mary Belding



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE:

Fellowship met on Feb.4 and March 4. April we will have Easter breakfast at 9am. Please come and join us. In May we will celebrate Pentecost. We still need your help with coffee hour, please sign up. More plans are in the future.

Nancy Sabo

TRINITY BOOK CLUB:

Trinity Book Club will meet at the Ashtabula Arts Center for their next meeting on Tuesday, April 17th, at 6:00 pm. The book is *The Library at the Edge of the World* by Felicity Hayes-McCoy and Cheryle Chiaramonte will be the hostess. Please contact Beth Adams at 992-8428 with any questions.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:



SUNDAY—APRIL 22, 2018

DURING FELLOWSHIP HOUR

**FOR: G.O. MINISTRIES
H.I.P PROGRAM**

Please bring a gift to help in caring for babies and small children, such as:

Diapers, Baby Health & Hygiene Products, blankets, clothes, food and **ESPECIALLY...DIAPERS, WIPES & GALLON STORAGE BAGS**

SAVE THE DATE....THERE WILL BE CAKE!



A few corrections have been brought to the church office. Please change in your directory.

1. Laura Lue Dougherty,
Apt. #107
2. Stowell Family
(back of directory)
The correct phone number is
992-7503.

Faith in Action Hamloaf/ Meatloaf Dinner

April 6, 4:30—6:30 pm
Tickets are \$9.00 each Donations of
cake or pie needed. Please sign up in
the Fellowship Hall.

LIONS CLUB SPAGHETTI DINNER

APRIL 14TH FROM 4:00 PM—7:00 PM


TICKETS \$8.00 EACH AVAILABLE AT
THE DOOR

**Next Town Hall Meeting: April 11, 2018
at 6:30 PM! SEE YOU THERE!**

**TRINITY WORK DAY.....BRING
YOUR GLOVES AND TOOLS APRIL
7TH, 2018 @ 9:00 AM!!!!**

April 2018

DEACON ON CALL: BARB McCLURE 997-5748
 ELDER ON CALL: MARY BELDING 862-6786
 LITURGIST: JESSIE SMITH
 USHERS: ADAMS/WALLACE TEAM
 COMMUNION SERVERS: AYERS-BLOOM-LaDu-SABO
 PLEASE SIGN UP TO HOST FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday Communion 9:00 Choir 9:00 Easter Breakfast No Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 10:45 Faith Builders No Youth Group	2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED REV. MARK WILL BE ON VACATION THIS WEEK	3 11:30 Game Day 8:00 Al Anon Mtg.	4 NO Adult Bible Study 6:30 Deacons Mtg. 6:30 Card Ministry	5 10:00 Prayer Group Thursday Ladies 6:30 Bell Practice	6 Faith In Action Ham Loaf/Meatloaf Dinner 4:30-6:30 pm \$9.00 per person	7 TRINITY WORK DAY 9:00 AM until ?
8 9:00 Choir No Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship/Rev. June Begany-Welcome Back! 10:45 Faith Builders CE MTG. A.W. No Youth Group	9	10 Rev. Mark returns to the office. 8:00 ROMEOS @ Deb's Diner 6:30 VBS Meeting 8:00 Al Anon Mtg.	11 10:00 Adult Bible Study 6:30 Card Ministry 6:30 TOWN HALL MEETING!!	12 10:00 Prayer Group Thursday Ladies 6:30 Bell Practice	13 10:00 Brown Bag Ladies	14 10:00 Transformers Lions Club Spaghetti Dinner 4:00-7:00 pm \$8.00 per person
15 9:00 Choir 9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 10:45 Faith Builders 6:30 Youth Group -	16	17 11:30 Game Day 8:00 Al Anon Mtg.	18 10:00 Adult Bible Study 6:00 Comm. Outreach 6:30 Card Ministry 7:00 Session Mtg.	19 10:00 Prayer Group Thursday Ladies 6:30 Bell Practice	20 REMOTE AREA MEDICAL CLINIC TICKETS AT 3:00 AM Services start at 6:00 AM each day	21 REMOTE AREA MEDICAL CLINIC (ALSO ON 4/22) VBS TRAINING 10:00-11:00 AM
22 9:00 Choir 9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 10:45 Faith Builders Baby Shower during fellowship for G.O. Ministries 2:00 Cluster Mtg. 6:30 Youth Group	23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	24 8:00 Al Anon Mtg.	25 10:00 Adult Bible Study 6:30 Card Ministry	26 10:00 Prayer Group Thursday Ladies 6:30 Bell Practice	27	28
29 9:00 Choir 9:15 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 10:45 Faith Builders 6:30 Youth Group	30	DO YOU HAVE YOUR SPRING CLEANING DONE?		DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR "STUFF" FOR THE CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE!	Save the date: June 2nd	DROP OFF AT CHURCH OR CALL 993-7111 TO ARRANGE TO HAVE IT PICKED UP!