

**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1342 WEST PROSPECT ROAD
ASHTABULA OH 44004**

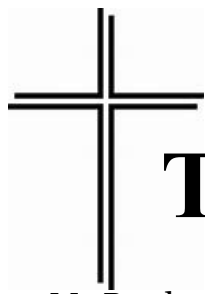
**APRIL 2023
NEWSLETTER**



“Why do you look for the living
among the dead? He is not here,
but has risen.”

Luke 24:5





Trinity Times



My Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

My first car was the family Mustard Yellow Chevette with Bright Red vinyl interior. Please don't misunderstand me, I was grateful at sixteen to have a car to drive to school, work, and play. Many young people my age were not able to have a car; so, I was thankful to have a car. But, the bright yellow color of the Chevette stood out among all the other cars in the school parking lot. While some were driving more expensive, cooler cars, I was driving a humble one and at times ashamed to claim it as mine.

Perhaps then we can understand the story of Palm Sunday a little more when we realize the significance of Jesus riding a donkey. When armies return to the capital city to celebrate the victories of conquest, the general rides in on a chariot or perhaps a warhorse. Jesus is riding a donkey. Donkeys were beasts of burden, to carry supplies from place to place. They were neither glorious like the highly decorated chariots nor imposing like the finest horses bred for war. Jesus enters Jerusalem in humility.

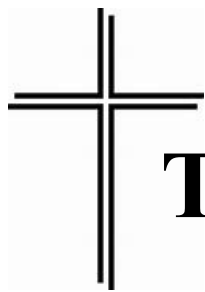
But the significance of Palm Sunday lies not just in the donkey but in the armies he leads. Jesus does not enter with the Roman Legions, or the Greek Hoplites, or Persian Immortals, or Scythian Cavalry. Jesus enters Jerusalem with crowds of people, perhaps too poor to throw flowers, so they cut branches from the trees and place them on the road. They throw their cloaks, perhaps not able to afford cloth. Jesus leads a victory parade of poor, weak, and ordinary people, shouting Hosanna or "save us." Not an army coming in victory or conquest, but crowds of people needing freedom and power. Jesus enters Jerusalem in humility.

But of all the details we are familiar with this story, the most important is that the crowds believe Jesus to be the Son of David. Now David was the great king of Israel after God's own heart. To be a Son of David is to be a blood descendent and heir to the throne of David. The crowds believe Jesus to be King, protector, provider and shepherd of the people; and he is. But he arrives on a donkey, among an army of needy people, to save and deliver, to be crowned with thorns and to ascend to a tree as a throne. Jesus enters to be coronated as king: in humility.

And here is what scandals us; we stumble over that humility. Thankful for a savior, but why did it have to be a donkey and not a Abrams Tank? Grateful for mercy, but why an army of needy, poor people and not an army of Marines? Appreciative for grace and freedom, but why a Cross for a Throne? Not a Son of Man and Son of God that we can be proud of, but one that comes in humility to destroy the power of vanity and arrogance. This is why the world and many people cannot accept Jesus as King and Lord, because He does not dominate, conquer, or compete. He is dominated, destroyed in total Crucified failure. And that makes all the difference in the world. Jesus enters in humility to serve and by this obedience creation is forgiven and all things can now be made new.

Friends, as we once again hear the story of Holy Week, may we look at the story through a new perspective. Not a piece of our history to be ashamed of as a Mustard Yellow Chevette with Bright Red interior. Not a scandal to hide and be ashamed of, but as the one perfect act of the one perfect person to procure our freedom and our life. Let us not be ashamed of the Crucified Jesus, but let us come to bear witness in public of His Cross and His Victory: in humility. Amen.

In Christ,
Rev. Mark



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REPORT FROM SESSION

On Wednesday March 15th the elders and deacons met together. We read and had discussion based on Jeremiah 19:4-14. Following that, there was discussion concerning projects and worship as to what is good and what can be better and where we can be moving in relation to those topics.

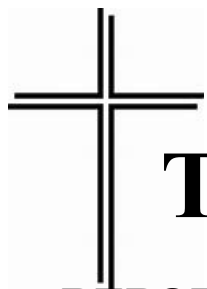
Session then met following the joint meeting. The normal business was carried out, including:

- Approval of minutes of February session meeting and an e-mail vote about Lenten worship service schedule.
- Approval of clerk's report which consisted of two requests for use of the building, neither of which was approved due to schedule conflicts.
- Approval of minister's report which included:
 - ◊ Information on shared worships with East Side (Maundy Thursday at Trinity and Christmas Eve at East Side, this year.)
 - ◊ Starting times will switch in May. Trinity's worship will begin at 9:30.
 - ◊ Thursday evening Bible Study is on hold til after Easter. Wednesday morning Bible Study continues at East Side at 10:00.
 - ◊ Rev. Mark listed his calls and visits.
 - ◊ There will be a Town Hall Meeting on March 22nd at 6:30.
 - ◊ Rev. Mong will be on Session approved vacation Jun 9-11, and June 23-July 5.
 - ◊ For his continued education, Rev. Mong has enlisted personal coaching services for 6 sessions.
 - ◊ Rev. Mong has been assisting Joyce Shellhammer with Lenten Services .



Committee reports were approved and included:

- Worship & Music: April Ushers (Barb and Dwight Beatty) and liturgists (Jessie Smith for April) were named Fellowship:
 - ◊ There is upcoming publication of a cookbook. Ruth Allen is accepting recipes.
 - ◊ We will have a worship service and picnic with East Side on August at Lake Shore Park in the Overlook Pavilion.
 - ◊ Lenten suppers are going well.
- Community Outreach:
 - ◊ Trinity continues to generously give food to the Faith Lutheran Food Pantry.
 - ◊ Funds are being collected through Lent for the Presbyterian Giving Catalog.
 - ◊ There will be our annual baby shower on May 21st with gifts to HIP program at Co Community Development.
 - ◊ Water jugs and monetary gifts will be taken to Austinburg Congregational Church to be delivered to the Congregational church in East Palestine.
 - ◊ We will join in the city clean up on April 22nd.
 - ◊ April 29th will be a clean-up day at Trinity.
- Property and Finance:
 - ◊ Minutes from their meeting were distributed.
- Emergency and Safety: Panic buttons have been ordered and should be installed soon.
- Deacons: Kathy Depp was thanked for attending and reported that the deacons will be distributing flowers and candy to shut-ins at Easter time.



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REPORT FROM SESSION (Continued)

- Ministerial Relations: the group is pleased that Rev. Mong's coaching meetings are going well.
- Presbytery: Hobart Shiflet, commissioner, attends meetings via Zoom

Mary Belding, Clerk of Session



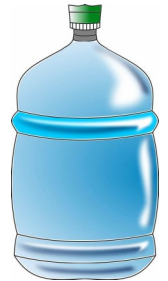
2023 per capita is \$36.50

REPORT FROM COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community Outreach met Sunday, March 12, 2023, following worship service.

Cash and soup donations collected during "soup"er bowl month were given to Faith Lutheran Food Pantry. Many cans of soup and \$150.00 cash were donated this year. Thanks to all who contributed.

We are currently collecting gallon sealed jugs of water to be donated to the residents of East Palestine Ohio. The water will be collected at Trinity through March 31, 2023, at which time we will transport to Austinburg Church of Christ and they will deliver to a church in East Palestine for distribution.



The Lenten season cash collection is ongoing. The free will offering collected during the Lenten Thursday night service and soup dinner was graciously contributed to our ongoing collection for the following items from the Presbyterian Mission Catalog:

Garden Well(s) - \$50 share/\$1500.00 for a well

Latrine(s) - \$50 share/\$350 latrine

Jerry Can(s) - \$25

Sewing Machine(s) - \$50



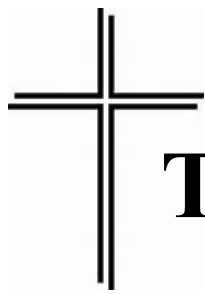
The annual Baby Shower for the collection of infant and toddler care items to be donated to G.O. Ministries H.I.P. (Helping Independent Parents) program will be held during Fellowship Hour on Sunday, May 21, 2023.

The Bike and Build Cross Country Riders will not be returning this year and they are sunsetting their program. We are, however, looking into assisting the First United Methodist Church in serving breakfast to cyclists participating in the Great Ohio Bike Adventure that Ashtabula County is hosting this year during the week of June 16-24, 2023. More information to follow.

With much appreciation to all who support these worthwhile missions....

The Community Outreach Committee





Trinity Times

THE EDEN PROJECT

Our motto is "Growing Food, Growing Faith".

Spring is on its way!!!

You are welcome to join us in the garden. Help us plan and look forward to spending some time in the garden.

Hopefully, we will be able to provide some nutritious enjoyable food again this year. The project started out with much help from many people. We have been able in past years to donate produce to the International Harvest soup kitchen located at the Dream Center at West 57th Street and Washington Avenue. We have brought produce into the church to share with the congregation whenever possible.

Our two wonderful benches donated in honor of the Hoffmans are on the north east corner of our garden area and are still as nice as new. Our Ashtabula neighbors respectfully use them.

Working in the garden is a great way to meet our neighbors and to get to know each other. Come join us!



REPORT FROM TRINITY SCRIP FUND

Report February 2023

Dee Fassett and Mary Belding continue providing gift cards that, in turn, provided rebates that make it possible for the Scrip Program to contribute to Trinity.

Beginning balance 2/01/23	\$ 1,233.52
<i>Income from sales : Feb</i>	<i>\$ 2,405.00</i>

<i>Cost of cards (incl. shipping):</i>	
<i>Feb</i>	<i>\$ 2,543.66</i>

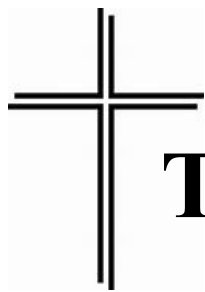


Ending balance Feb 28, 2023	\$ 1,094.86
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Thanks to all who support this mission.

Mary Belding

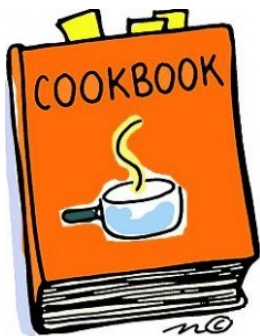
Dee Fassett



Trinity Times

MAUNDY THURSDAY

We will be having dinner to celebrate Maundy Thursday on April 6th at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Service will be at 7pm in the Sanctuary with communion served. Please join us.



CHURCH COOKBOOK

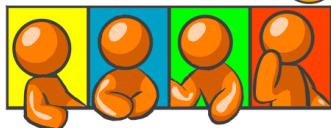
The Fellowship Committee is putting together a church cookbook with any recipes the congregation wishes to submit. If you have any that you would like to submit, please give them to Ruth Allen by May 31st, who is chair of the committee. Please feel free to submit as many as you would like. If anyone would like to contribute to the style, dividers, or format, the information is in the kitchen. Please write your comments on the sheet.

BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

Our Thursday evening Bible Study will resume on Thursday, April 13th at 7pm. Now would be a great time to join us as we begin a new book.



Town Hall Meeting



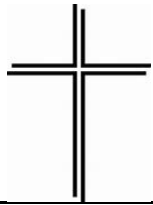
TOWN HALL MEETING

We will be having another Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, April 26th at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.

Prayer List

Beverly Cigani, Marion Shipman, Mike and Marj Kenny, Pete and Fran Wilson, Lynda Bennet, Katie Ketterer, Josh Leiten, Genny Wallace, Carrie Olzak, Ed Strock, Marj Landfried, Ruth Allen, Dale Fassett





April 2023

Website www.trinityashtabula.org

Email trinitypres04@gmail.com

Elder On Call: Kathy Fasset: 440-997-7490

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Church Office Hours Monday and Friday 10 am-12 pm Wednesday 9:30 am-11:30 am						1 Lions Club Breakfast 9am-12 noon Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
2 Face-Face Worship 11:00 am Video Worship Communion Open Arms Sobriety-7 pm	3	4 Knitting Group - East Side 10-12 noon Al-Anon 7 pm	5 Bible Study 10 am East Side Clean and Free 7 pm	6 Brown Bag Lunch packing 10 am Maunday Thursday Service at Trinity Dinner at 5:30 pm Worship at 7 pm	7 Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	8 Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
9  2¢ A Meal Face-Face Worship 11:00 am Video Worship Open Arms Sobriety-7 pm	10	11 Romeos 9 am Debs Diner Al-Anon 7 pm	12 Bible Study 10 am East Side Property and Finance 6:00 pm Clean and Free 7 pm	13	14 Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	15 Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
16 Face-Face Worship 11:00 am Video Worship Open Arms Sobriety-7 pm	17 Cardmaking 6:30 pm	18 Knitting Group - East Side 10-12 noon Trinity Book Group Al-Anon 7 pm	19 Bible Study 10am East Side Session 6:00 pm Clean and Free 7 pm	20	21 Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	22 Neighborhood clean-up- 9 am-meet at church Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
23 and 30 Face-Face Worship 11:00 am Video Worship Open Arms Sobriety-7 pm	24	25 Al-Anon 7 pm	26 Town Hall at 6:30 pm Bible Study 10 am East Side Clean and Free 7 pm	27	28 Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	29 Church clean up day-9am Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm