

**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**1342 PROSPECT ROAD**  
**ASHTABULA OH 44004**  
**[www.trinityashtabula.org](http://www.trinityashtabula.org)**

**APRIL 2024**  
**NEWSLETTER**



“Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.”

Mark 16:6





# Ashtabula Times

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

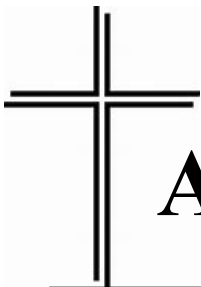
I have heard many times from many people asking, "Were you the fly on my wall this past week?" Apparently, the words I spoke just a half hour before, made a connection for someone and I was preaching to "them." I am flabbergasted every time this happens, because I was never the fly on the wall or even aware of what a person was going through. How could I have known about the crisis or the problem or the situation you were going through, let alone have any kind of answer or solution to the problem? The Truth is I have crisis and situation to deal with. I always try to politely thank them for the kind words, but also try to shift the attention from me speaking to Christ Jesus speaking. I am pretty sure He was there in whatever the mire was you were stuck in, and He was the one making a connection, not me.

I am truly blessed and privileged to be a minister of Word and Sacrament, but the good news and at time challenging news is that Jesus is the real Master of Word and Sacrament. I might come near and walk with God's people for a short time, but it is Jesus who truly walks with his disciples, *while they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them.* Do I live in your hearts and therefore experience and accompany you in every crisis, joy, and situation? I can share a space for a time, but it is Christ who shares all space and time with you. He is really the fly on your wall, I am in another room completely.

But why should He be there in our hearts to begin with? We are exactly like the two disciples travelling to Emmaus, completely overwhelmed by the events of Holy Week and the death of Jesus as well as being astounded by the reports of the women of an empty tomb and an encounter with the risen Jesus. But they don't get it, they don't understand, and they don't believe it, *oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!* That's when Jesus shows up. Not when the disciples have it together, but precisely when the disciples need Jesus most. Jesus graces his people in the crisis, the problem, and the situations when we need him most: when we are most fools, most slow of heart, or most in need of faith-help. Jesus comes near. Jesus, the fly on the wall.

Then he starts to work, explaining the scriptures and connecting the dots between what was promised and foretold and how he filled it all, *then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.* Jesus explains, Jesus interprets, Jesus connects, and Jesus preaches. Jesus is the real minister that every Sunday Sermon or Thursday evening service, preaches himself to you. So, who is really talking to you every sermon? Who is really connecting the dots for you every homily? Who is comforting you and who is challenging you? Who is your real Minister of the Word? That is why you can get it, that is why you can understand, that is why you can be comforted in your sorrows and challenged in your apathies. Jesus is your Minister of the Word; and your hearts burn because of Him.

But how many of us also get tired on our Emmaus journeys? How many of us ask Jesus to stay for supper, *as they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening, and the day is now nearly over.'* So, he went in to stay with them. When the Church celebrates the Lord's Supper or Communion or the Eucharist, who is really presiding at the table, who is really feeding or watering, who is really blessing? (continued next page)

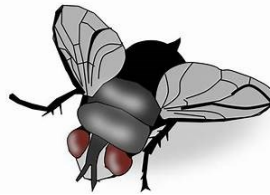


# Ashtabula Times

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK (CONTINUED)

I might break bread, but it is Jesus who is broken. I might pour a cup, but it is Jesus who is poured. I might mumble a few words, but when Jesus serves from His table, *then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.* Who is the real Minister of the Sacraments?

Friends, as I have been recently extended a call to serve as both Trinity's and now Eastside's permanent Minister of Word and Sacrament, I would be amiss if I didn't remind everyone that Jesus is really your Minister, I am his quite human assistant. He is the one who comes near and walks with you. He is the one who ministers His Word to you, as the fly on the walls of your hearts. He is the one who serves Himself at His table. He is the one who ignites your hearts, and opens your eyes. He is the Head to which we are all part of His body. Remember that Jesus is the Living Lord and not I. Let us all follow and depend on Him and no other. *Alleluia! The Lord is risen.*



## TRINITY SCRIP FUND

### Report March 2024

<b>Beginning balance: 2/01/2024</b>		<b>\$ 2929.74</b>
<b>Income from sales :</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>\$ 470.00</b>
<b>Cost of card:</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Shipping:</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Ending balance: Feb 29, 2024</b>		<b>\$ 3399.74</b>



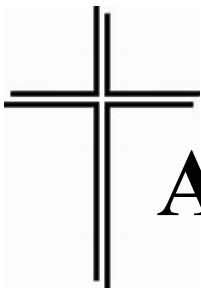
Scrip cards are no longer being sold weekly. In February, all remaining inventory was sold. If there is interest, we will have gift cards available for ordering in November for use for Christmas gifts.

In March, \$2900 will be donated to Trinity's current expense fund. \$200 will be donated for use by the Community Outreach work of Trinity and East Side.

Thanks to all who have supported this mission.

Mary Belding

Dee Fassett



# Ashtabula Times



2024 per capita is \$38.00

## **REPORT FROM TRINITY'S SESSION**

Session met on March 20th at 7pm. The normal business was carried out, including:

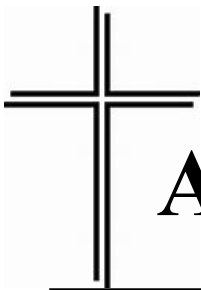
- Approval of minutes of February Session meeting.
- Approval of the financial reports.
- The clerk's report included:
  - ◊ Thank You notes from PCUSA for our assistance. The notes are posted in Fellowship Hall.
- Approval of minister's report which included:
  - ◊ Rev. Mark listed his calls and visits.
  - ◊ Rev. Mong has been serving as Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery. He serves on the Moderators Committee, the Vision Task Fund and the Coordinating Cabinet of the Presbytery.
  - ◊ We are trying to re-start the Cluster and talk/discern the future of Presbyterianism in Ashtabula County. There will be a meeting at Trinity on April 27th from 10-3.
  - ◊ There will be a Town Hall meeting on April 3rd at 6:30 at East Side. We will share our stories from the last 6 months and discern the next 6 months. Folks from East Side and First and Trinity will be invited.



### **Committee reports were approved and included:**

- Worship & Music:
  - ◊ April worship will be at Trinity. May worship will be at East Side.
- Fellowship
  - ◊ The cookbook is progressing
- Community Outreach:
  - ◊ We continue to gather goods for Faith Lutheran Food Pantry.
  - ◊ We continue to fill our Blessing Box for Thursdays.
  - ◊ There will be a gathering of women at The Old Mill Winery April 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.
  - ◊ Empty Bowls- a fundraiser for Feed Our Vets is scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Ashtabula Arts Center. Contact Becca Stowell for further information.
  - ◊ Our annual baby shower for GO HIP will be April 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Property and Finance:
  - ◊ Updating the AED is being researched.
  - ◊ There is a fire blanket in the kitchen to be used in case of a fire emergency.
  - ◊ The committee will now meet on the third Wednesday at 6pm.
- Deacons: David Adams was thanked for attending.
  - ◊ Deacons meet quarterly. Their next meeting is April 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00.

Mary Belding, Clerk of Session



# Ashtabula Times

## ASHTABULA CLUSTER OF CHURCHES



The Ashtabula Cluster of Presbyterian Churches will be hosting a leadership workshop for all Church officers on Saturday, April 27th from 10am-3pm at Trinity. The topics of the workshops will include the responsibilities of Ruling Elders, Deacons, the dynamics of Church Structure and discerning the future of the cluster. The moderators of the area churches will be leading the workshops as well as closing worship with communion. Lunch will be provided. All are welcome and we ask that you RSVP only for purposes of planning lunch.

## THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for all the hard work and help that made the Lenten Services a success.

I am also in need of volunteers to help with food for the Ashtabula Cluster Leadership workshop on April 27th from 10-3 hosted by Trinity. Sign-up sheets are located in Trinity's Fellowship Hall or check with me.

Earth Day Cleanup for Trinity is April 20th starting at 9am. Coffee and Donuts will be supplied.

Ruth Allen, Chair—Fellowship Committee



## REPORT FROM EASTSIDE'S SESSION

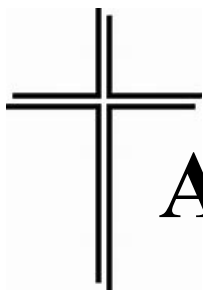
- Approved the Minutes from February 19<sup>th</sup> Session Meeting
- Reviewed and approved the Treasurer's Report.
- Cluster will hold Officer Training on April 27 from 10:00 – 3:00 at Trinity.
- Maundy Thursday will be March 28, 2024, supper at 6:00, Worship at 7:00.
- Approved slate of Congregational Meeting for March 24, 2024.
- Town Hall Meeting will be on April 3, 2024 at East Side.
- Approved Terms of Call and to Call Mark Mong as Installed Pastor of East Side.

Committee Reports:

- Buildings and Grounds is still working on the new sign.
- Worship and Music—Pianos have been tuned.



Cathy Burnham, Clerk of Session



# Ashtabula Times

## EASTSIDE'S MEETING SCHEDULE

Combined Choir—Every Sunday, 9am at Trinity in April

Session—Monday, April 15th, 6:30pm

Knitting Group—2nd and 4th Tuesday of Each Month from 10am—12pm

Outreach—April 21st following Worship

Yes You Can Crafting Group—Every Monday 9:30am-Noon

Deacons—April 7th following worship



## EASTSIDE'S BIRTHDAYS

Liz Mong—1st

Doris Smith-9th

Rosalind Woodburn-19th



## EASTSIDE'S ANNIVERSARIES

Bob & Sara Wetzel—14th

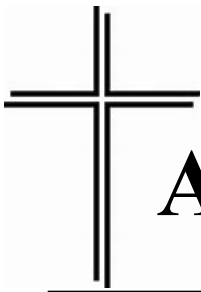
## TOWN HALL

All three Ashtabula City Churches will be meeting on Wednesday, April 3rd at 6:30pm in Eastside's sanctuary to continue the storytelling and discernment of our future life together. Members and friends of all congregations are invited to attend the meeting to share experiences and ideas about meshing together.



## PRAYER LIST

John Lockhart, Jerry Jeffries, Jim and Carolyn Johnston, Marty perry, Peg LaDu, Pete and Fran Wilson, Kevin and Christina Horrigan, Family of Tom Samay, Genny Wallace, Kerry Mason Jr., Cliff Titus, Jeff Fish, and Gerry Giangola



# Ashtabula Times

## JOINT COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Lenten Services have been a great time for fellowship and preparation for Easter. We would like to thank everyone that has participated in all aspects of making this a huge success. We will have a tally of the donations received and purchases made through the Presbyterian Mission Catalog soon!

### ASHTABULA CITY CLEAN UP

MEET AT TRINITY 8:30 A.M. SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024. Join with many volunteers throughout Ashtabula City for the annual city cleanup day. We will be meeting at Trinity at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 20, 2024, to clean up our street and sidewalks.

Donuts and coffee provided.



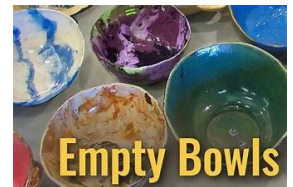
### LET'S SHOWER THE G.O. MINISTRIES/HIP PROGRAM WITH BABY ITEMS



**Sunday – April 21, 2024** after worship at Trinity  
Items primarily for birth to 2T - unwrapped

### LAKESIDE HIGH SCHOOL– Art – Empty Bowls Project –

for Feed our Vets. Friday, April 19, 2024. See Becca Stowell for more information



**LADIES NIGHT OUT - OLD MILL WINERY 4/24 at 5:00 p.m.** – Sign up sheet at Trinity

### MAY – Spice Drive – G.O. Ministries

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Baptist Church Breakfast 8:30 – 10 A.M. – Servers & Food  
GO Ministries 1 day a month – Mon-Thursday 10-4



GET READY THE COOKBOOK WILL BET HITTING THE PRESSES SOON AND READY FOR YOUR PURCHASE

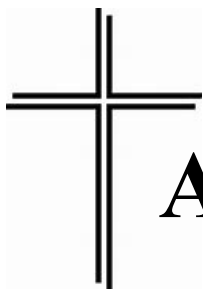
## TRINITY PROPERTY/FINANCE COMMITTEE

Great news! The fallen tree on the east side of the church has been removed. The broken light fixture in the fellowship hall will be replaced in the near future.

A big thank you to Nancy Sabo for donating a fire blanket. A fire blanket is a safety device used to smother small, starting fires. If a fire breaks out, place the fire blanket directly over the flames. This will cut off the oxygen supply and suffocate the fire. The blanket is located in the kitchen.

Our beautiful music will continue to enrich our worship - the piano in the sanctuary was recently tuned.

The committee would like to thank everyone for your continued support. Because of you Trinity is able to maintain the church building and property, continue outreach efforts, and support the community.



# Ashtabula Times

## SPRING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 2024

April 7th

April 14th

April 21st

April 28th

Trinity

Trinity

Trinity

Trinity



May 2024

May 5th

May 12th

May 19th

May 26th

Pentecost

Eastside

Eastside

Eastside

Eastside

## MINISTERIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

This committee exists as a liaison between the congregants of Trinity and Rev. Mong. In response to some questions, use of the “one call” program requires that a family member requests any notifications or prayer requests for a family member directly to Rev. Mong.

Rev. Mong gives Session a monthly report of his calls and visits.

Rev. Mark can be reached anytime by calling his cell phone at 937.661.4580. This is the best way to contact him since he is between two offices weekly. Anyone who would like individual pastoral care can call him.

Please talk to us if you have any questions or comments concerning how Trinity (with the help of Rev. Mong) is progressing in working toward “being church”.

Peace and Blessings,

Mary Belding, Pam Bloom, Beth Dougherty,  
Dale Fassett

