

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1342 PROSPECT ROAD
ASHTABULA OH 44004
www.trinityashtabula.org

APRIL 2025
NEWSLETTER



“He is not here; for he has risen, as he said”
Matthew 28:6





Ashtabula Times



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The beauty of the Erector Sets from my childhood is that the same pieces can be put together in many ways and each time the result is unique. In one session, the parts become a plane. In another session, the pieces become a car. In another session, the parts can even become something that has never been created for. The same parts, but they can be shaped into different forms and shapes, only limited by the hands and imagination of the builder.

The beauty of Easter is that the same people created by God can be resurrected and put together in new ways as part of the New Creation. By defeating sin and death in raising Jesus, God has taken away the nature that continually “misses the mark” or “falls short” and instead creates a new nature, the very nature of Jesus Himself. The same people, but made new, only limited by the work and imagination of Jesus’ Spirit.

Revealed in Jesus Christ, we see that humanity still carries the same identity in our resurrection as we had before. The resurrected Jesus still looks like the crucified Jesus, marks, scars, and holes. Jesus was not abandoned, nor forsaken, but delivered from sin and death. But the resurrected Jesus is the same Jesus as before and it will be the same for us. Resurrection yes, but the same us as now will be the same us then. We will not be abandoned nor forsaken but delivered from sin and death. The same us now, and the same us then.

But while we see revealed in Jesus Christ, that the same identity is carried over, Jesus becomes new. He could walk through walls, disappear, hide himself from people’s awareness and shine with the Glory of God. The same Jesus but resurrected or transfigured or transcended from before; and it will be the same for us. The same us, but glorified, covered with covenant faithfulness, filled with the Glory of God and putting on life without ends. To be resurrected is to be the same in identity but transcendent in nature.

The Easter journey of Jesus’ Church is one of metamorphosis which quite literally means form-change: the same parts recreated into a resurrected creation. Our journey this Easter is also one of metamorphosis, as we find ourselves on the cusp of merging. We certainly can relate and understand that to be resurrected is to become new, because this Easter could very well be the last in the form of Trinity and East Side Presbyterian Churches. But to be Resurrection people, means that all things can become new. But it is still the same us because it is the same Jesus. We have not been abandoned nor forsaken, we have been resurrected. The same people, the same identity, the same community, but resurrected into the new creation, in a new form.

This means we can take comfort in the knowledge that even though Jesus was changed on Easter, he was the same Jesus as before. If he was the same in identity, so will it be for us. Even though things have changed, we are still the chosen, beloved and called Children of God. But this also means that we can take challenge in the knowledge that even though Jesus was the same on Easter and on the cross, he was a different Jesus than before. Even though we are the same Covenant family of God, we are still the being resurrected Children of God. So, this Easter, let us remember that we are still the covenant community of God in whatever form we look like. But let us also remember that to be the covenant community of God means a continual metamorphosis or form-change. We are God’s Erector Set, the same pieces, a new creation. Let us live into God’s covenant family; the same us, a new form, whatever shape and appearance God is resurrecting us to become. Amen.

In Christ, Rev. Mark



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2025 per capita is \$40.00

REPORT FROM TRINITY'S SESSION

Session met March 19th and the normal business was carried out including:

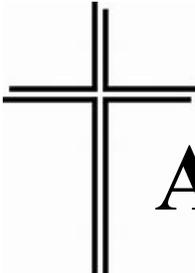
- Approval of minutes from February session meeting.
- Approval of financial report for February 2025
- The clerk's report included reading a thank you from the PCUSA for our contributions to their four annual offerings.
- The Minister's report included:
 - ◊ A spreadsheet of his calls and visits.
 - ◊ Meetings for moving toward merger with East Side
- Committee reports
 - ◊ Community Outreach
 - ◆ May 4th baby shower for HIP
 - ◆ May 27th city clean-up. We will clean up Samuel Ave.
 - ◊ Property and Finance:
 - ◆ The security system has been updated.
 - ◆ Contracts for yard maintenance and landscape freshen has been entered with Richardson's Landscaping.
 - ◆ The HVAC project is progressing.
 - ◊ Deacons: Pauline Headman represented the Deacons
 - ◆ The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper collected \$357.
 - ◆ The deacons will be painting the kitchen.



Mary Belding, Clerk



The Family of Mike Kenney would like to thank everyone who offered thoughts, prayers, cards, food or visits to them during the days and weeks after Mike's death. Your love and compassion is greatly appreciated.



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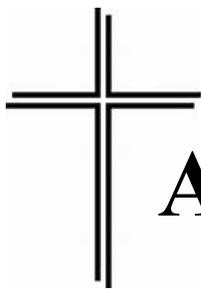
REPORT FROM EAST SIDE'S SESSION

- The meeting opened with prayer.
- The Minutes were reviewed and approved.
- The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved.
- Sara Wetzel reported on the Joint Deacon's Meeting.
- Pastor's Report:
 1. Next Presbytery meeting will be March 24, 2025, Hybrid or via Zoom.
 2. Reviewed Mark's visitations with shut ins.
 3. Town Hall Meeting is March 23, 2025, at 6:30 pm, Trinity Presbyterian Church.
 4. Deadline for the Newsletter is March 24, 2025.
 5. The Memorial Service for Joyce Shellhammer will be March 29, 2025.
 6. Congregational Meeting will be April 13, 2025, at 11:30 in the sanctuary.
 7. Plan of Union Committee – merging committee – we need to identify 3 or 4 members of the congregation to participate. They will work with Trinity and the Presbytery.
- Approved Mark's vacation from May 12th through May 18th.
- Clerk's Report: Rosemary Peck was installed as Deacon on March 16, 2025. Because Mark will be on vacation the next Session Meeting will be on April 28, 2025.
- Buildings and Grounds: We have a prospective tenant for the manse. The lease agreement has been sent to Presbytery for approval. Working on additional quotes for roof replacement for the church.
- Outreach: Baby Shower will be the first Sunday in May.
- Worship and Music: The bells have been reconditioned and back at East Side. Next meeting will be April 14, 2025.



The meeting closed with prayer.

Cathy Burnham, Clerk of Session



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MEETING SCHEDULE

Joint Ministerial Relations Committee—Tuesday, April 8th, 6:30pm at Trinity

ROMEOS—Tuesday, April 8th, 9am at Deb’s Diner

Tri-Church Lunch Packing—Thursday, April 10th 10am at Trinity

Joint Worship/Music—Monday April 14th at East Side

Trinity Property/Finance—Wednesday, April 16th, 6pm at Trinity

Trinity Session—Wednesday, April 16th, 7pm at Trinity

East Side Session—Monday, April 28th, 6:30pm at East Side



EASTSIDE’S BIRTHDAYS

- 1st Liz Mong
- 9th Doris Smith
- 18th Vickie Campbell
- 19th Rosalind Woodburn



EASTSIDE’S ANNIVERSARIES

- 14th Robert & Sara Wetzel

A NOTE FROM SCRIP

The Scrip account had \$508.00 as of March 1, 2025. A check for \$500.00 was given to the Trinity Capital Improvements Fund. When the bank statement shows that transaction is complete, the account will be closed and the remaining \$8.00 will be given to Trinity’s Two-Cents-a Meal fund.

The Scrip program will then be officially terminated. Thanks to all who supported this mission through the years.

Dee Fassett and Mary Belding



PRAYER LIST

Genny Wallace, Berniece Boggs, Jim & Rose Booth, Jim Johnston, Courtney Wetzel, Bob Meyers, Jack Hogle, Bev, The Family of Richard Gage, and Joanna Fisher



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JOINT COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community Council met Sunday, March 9, 2025.
Our next meeting is currently scheduled for June 9, 2025.



MISSION RESULTS FOR 2025:

Over 250 cans of soup collected and delivered.... thank you!

\$1,000.00 check from Trinity to RAM for the Remote Medical Assistance Program.

A thank you letter was received from Home Safe for our monetary contribution.

A thank you letter was received from Way Out Ministries for bibles donated. The bibles were submitted to the Summit County Jail to add to their library resources.

2025 AGENDA

Please retain so you can choose how you wish to share your blessings with these mission projects throughout the year.



January:

February: "SOUP-ER" BOWL SUNDAY soup collection for Faith Lutheran
Over 250 cans of soup collected and delivered.... thank you!

March: Starting on March 5th, there will be envelopes available for the **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (HUNGER-DISASTER-SELF-DEVELOPMENT) OFFERING** for PC (USA).

April: **OGHS OFFERING** continues through April 20.



H.I.P. (Helping Independent Parenting) will be the focus. Items for infants to 2 years Old will be collected and celebrated at a Baby Shower type celebration during fellowship hour following worship on May 4th.

May: **MAY 4th – H.I.P. Baby Shower** following worship



PENTECOST OFFERING for Presbyterian Church USA (Children at Risk-Youth-Young Adults) will be received during May and through June 8th. Forty percent (40%) of collection will stay locally and be given to Stacy's House.



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JOINT COMMUNITY OUTREACH (CONTINUED)

MAY 27: ASHTABULA CITY CLEAN UP DAY 8:30-11:30 A.M. MEET AT TRINITY DONUTS PROVIDED

June: June 8th will be the final day of collecting the **Pentecost Offering**.

July: SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION will be ongoing throughout the month.



August:

September: Raffle Baskets for HOMESAFE will be created by the committee. **PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING (Peacemaking and Reconciliation)** for PCUSA begins. Envelopes will be in the pews. The 25% kept locally will be donated to **HOMESAFE**.

October: PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING final collection date is October 8. **CATHOLIC CHARITIES BLANKET AND LINEN COLLECTION** begins.



November: CATHOLIC CHARITIES BLANKET AND LINEN COLLECTION continues. **ADOPTION OF CHILDREN FOR CHRISTMAS**

December: CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING
HAT, GLOVE AND MITTEN TREE



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program)
For information visit ashtabulagiveback.org or contact
Stephanie Blessing – Ameri core – 440-670-9125 to volunteer
G.O. Ministries
Breakfast at First Baptist Church M-F – Feeding homeless 8:30-9:30 a.m.



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WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgical Day</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Anthem</u>
4/6/2025	5th Sunday of Lent	First	Special Music
4/13/2025	Passion Sunday	First	Special Music
4/17/2025	Maundy Thursday	First	Special Music
4/20/2025	Resurrection of the Lord	First	Special Music
4/27/2025	2nd Sunday of Easter	First	Special Music



All Services are at
10am

TRINITY NOTICES

Just a reminder cook books are still available and make great gifts. If interested see Ruth Allen or Kathy Fassett

Kathy is trying to update the church directory, If you have moved or changed your Phone Numbers please contact Kathy Fassett or leave a message at 440-993-7111. Correct address will ensure you get the newsletter.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS



On Sunday, April 13th following worship at First Presbyterian, members of East Side will go to East Side for an 11:30am congregational meeting in the Sanctuary. Members of Trinity will go to Trinity for a 1pm congregational meeting in the Sanctuary. We will be having our Congregational Meeting to vote on the merger and if approved, to elect the members who will serve on a joint committee which will work an Administrative Commission of Presbytery on a Plan of Union to edit Bylaws, Manuals of Operation, Committees, etc. All active members are invited to attend and to offer their voice and vote on this matter.