

Trinity Times

**FEBRUARY
2019**

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

C.S. Lewis tells the story of how a wealthy and influential man asked to visit him in his house one day. Lewis invites him into his study, sits him down in a comfortable chair in front of a fireplace, while he sits in another. They enjoy pleasantries and tea and after a time of talking about nothing, the man asks the pertinent question, why do I need to go to church and be a part of a community? Lewis says nothing but reaches into the fire and pulls out one of the logs in the fire and leaves it on the hearth. After a moment, the man looks at Lewis says to him, "point taken" and proceeds to leave convinced to share in the Church community's life together. What the man saw was a log burning brightly while in the fire next to other logs on fire, but when removed and asked to sustain the fire by itself, the log went out. Together the logs burn, apart the logs extinguish.

Perhaps this analogy bears meaning for us. You see you are the log in the story. When being a part of a Life Together with others, you burn brighter and hotter. When being a part of a Life Apart from others, you go out. God's wisdom might just be on display here. When God created the Church, God created a community living life better and brighter together, in camaraderie, in communion, in fellowship, in fraternity together; instead of creating a Church as individuals living life apart and going out. By living together and by certain communal practices, like study, prayer, worship and service, everyone sustains and mutually encourages one another. Through commitment and love, the community lives every day, with joy in times of sorrow, strength in times of weakness, with purpose in idle times.

What then of our life together in Trinity? I am not talking about the committee meetings or the reports and procedures. I am talking about our life together in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Joy and laughter at another family's wedding. Sorrow and grief at another's funeral. Nurture and growth for a child not mine. Concern and prayer for another not with my last name. Crying with those in pain and suffering. Rejoicing with those having overcome cancer. Emptying myself financially in order to fill another's emptiness. Not our communal life as an institution; but a life together as members of the body of Christ.

In this new year, nothing is more important than our Life Together in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. The truly important things are our camaraderie, our mutuality, our love and concern burning brightly and warmly for each other and for all. The only thing that can quench the fire of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, is you choosing a Life Apart and not a Life Together. Make the choice of faith and choose a Life Together in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

In Christ,
Rev. Mark

Baptism Class

We are looking to start a class for parents wanting to have their child or children baptized. The class is four, one-hour long sessions spent with Rev. Mark. We are looking to begin on March 10th from 2-3pm. Please speak with Rev. Mark or the Church Office to register.



VBS Starting

Its that time of year again. We are starting to work on our Summer Vacation Bible School. This year's theme is **ROAR: Life is Wild...God is Good!** To that end we are meeting on Saturday, February 16th at 10am to begin planning the details for what promises to be a wild time this summer. If you are interested in helping in any and all capacities, please plan on joining us.



Transformation Lunch

The Transformation Group is at that point again in their 18-month process, where they need the help of the congregation again. They are currently discerning which of the many issues facing the community God might be calling them to freely cooperate with. In order to hear your comments and begin conversations, the group is inviting you to stay for a lunch and conversation on Sunday, February 24th following worship. They will be providing the food, they are hoping you will provide the conversation. Please join them and contribute to the journey of transformation not just for the 12 members, but for Trinity.



TRINITY BOOK CLUB

Trinity Book Club was established in 2005 to promote the love of reading. Each year we read a variety of books, meet to discuss the book selections, and enjoy fellowship and dessert.

We continue to collect children, young teen and adult books and magazines for two "little libraries" at Tony's Dog House restaurant in the harbor and in the lobby of the YMCA. The locations are maintained by the Fortnightly BookClub and are stocked with reading material for anyone to take and return or to keep.

We love reading good books and the discussions they inspire, exposure to new ideas and differing viewpoints, and an opportunity to socialize with other book lovers.

The meetings have been set for the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Book selections include:

February 13, *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance

April 10, *A Piece of the World*, by Christina Baker Kline



For questions, please contact Beth Adams at 992-8428.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The organizers of the Bethlehem project would like to know which churches want to gift Ashtabula County again with the telling of the birth of Christ this year. They are asking if Trinity Presbyterian Church wants to again help in this project.

There are many ways of helping. Trinity has for the past two years hosted the scene of Mary talking to her cousin Elizabeth. This scene requires no talking. With this scene we need several older Elizabeths and several younger Marys. This past year, sisters, Katelyn Williams and Katelyn Rought portrayed Mary. Many other jobs are needed. If you are interested in being a reader, please see Hobart Shiflett for more information. Greeters, decorators, actors, and Roman Soldiers are needed. Please contact Dale Fassett for more information. The organizers want to know by the end of February which churches will be involved. Please let Joyce Kren know if you would like to help. If there is enough interest, I will add Trinity to the growing list of churches involved. The first season there were 12 churches that participated and the second season grew to 22 churches.

This will be during the first week-end in December, Friday and Saturday from 5-8:30pm.

SHROVE TUESDAY



Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper sponsored by our Board of Deacons will be held on March 5th from 4:30-6:30pm. The menus this year will be pancakes, sausage, fruit and a new Menu item this year eggs. A freewill donation is requested to support the Deacons' work throughout the year. Hope to see you there.

ASH WEDNESDAY

One can scarcely believe that Lent is almost upon us, seeing as how we just finished the Christmas Season. But, our time together on our Lenten journeys is almost upon us. We will be having our annual Ash Wednesday service on March 6th at 7pm. We will have our usual worship service including the imposition of ashes and communion by intinction. Please join us as we begin our time together in repentance and introspection.



CLUSTER

The Ashtabula Cluster of Presbyterian Churches has been meeting over the past few months to begin discerning the purpose and activities of the cluster. To that end we will be having another discernment meeting on Saturday, March 2nd at 10am at First Presbyterian on Park Avenue to continue the process of taking our purpose and developing concrete ways of stepping into that purpose. We plan on meeting for no longer than an hour and a half together to continue our work. Please feel free to join us.

PLEDGE CARDS

Due to staffing, we were unable to send out a newsletter in the last several months and unable to distribute our pledge cards at the end of the year. Therefore, we have included one in this newsletter and if you find the card helpful in your spiritual giving and yearly planning, please feel in your information and return it to the church office. If you find the card unnecessary, please feel free to recycle at your leisure. The pledge cards will be used by the finance committee regarding their annual budgeting and planning process. Thanks for your generosity and commitment.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During the month of March, Community Outreach is conducting a shoe and boot drive for our friends at G O Ministry. We ask that if you have gently worn shoes or boots that you no longer need, could you bring them in and add them to our shoebox. Community Outreach thanks you for your help in this project.

HOUSE DEMOLISHED

Perhaps you have not noticed, but the house next door to the church which we purchased last February has been demolished. We hired the services of Capp Steel Erectors, Inc., to demolish the house and garage, fill in the basement and flatten out the ground. Now begins the work of discerning what we are to do with the space.



CLEANING COMPANY

We have entered into a contract with Rags, Brooms, and Mops Inc. to provide cleaning services for our building. Our contractor Pam is here in the building twice a week on Mondays and Fridays for several hours to clean the inside of the church building. If you see her in the building on those days, introduce yourself and tell her how well she is doing.

Welcome to New Staff Member

We welcome our newest staff member to Trinity Presbyterian Church! Dorrene Turner began working here in early January as our new Operations Assistant/Bookkeeper. Many might remember Dorrene from her time spent at Harris Memorial as well as her time spent at Trinity early in the merger. She has taken over the daily Secretarial Responsibilities as well as the responsibilities of managing some of the church's finances. She works Monday through Thursday from 8am to 1pm. She can be reached at the church by phone as well as by email: trinitypres04@gmail.com. Please join in welcoming Dorrene to Trinity as she begins her tenure with us.



United States Armed Forces,
Meredith Ayers, Linda Bennett,
Don Brunnell, Jackie Cardona,
Liz Evans, Dale Fassett, Dee
Fassett, Jeff Hart, Al & Pauline
Headman, Jerry Jeffries, Ruth
Ann Lautanen, William Reiter,
Karen Scott, Barb Stewart,
Norma Strock, Christi Stroud,
Trinity Shut-Ins, Fran Wilson,
Ken Zaebst

Please contact the Church
Office to be added to the prayer
requests.



Note from session



Your new group of elders are moving ahead with each of the committees they are leading, as well as “taking care of business” here at Trinity.

Christian Ed: Sarah Williams and Pam Bloom

Worship and Music: Susan Hogle

Community Outreach: Kathy Fassett and Pam Bloom

Fellowship: Nancy Sabo

Property and Finance: Beth Dougherty

Personnel (one from each class): Kathy Fassett, Craig Reiter, Marion Luce

Memorial: Nancy Sabo

Nominating: Susan Hogle

Talk to any of these Chairpersons to become a member of any of the committees.

In February the Elders and Deacons will meet together with Rev. Mong. This meeting will encourage our church leaders to work together and appreciate each role in serving Trinity.

Session will have an “Elder-on-Call”. If you have any thoughts or concerns you would like to share with or have addressed by Session, please contact your Elder on Call. Nancy Sabo will be available in February.

We also have a Ministerial Relations Committee who can be contacted if you have concerns or questions directly related to Rev. Mark. Dale Fassett, Beth Dougherty, Pam Bloom and Mary Belding are on that committee.

As we start a new year, let us be aware of caring for each other, for Trinity, and for our community, with the love Christ has shown.

Mary Belding,

Clerk



February 2019

DEACON ON CALL: Kathy Depp 440-466-2267

ELDER ON CALL: Nancy Sabo 440-992-4632

USHERS: The Fassett Team

LITURGISTS: Ruth Ann Ayers Susan Hogle

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 COMMUNION Choir 9am Adult Study 9:15am Worship/Faithbuilders 10:30am C.E. Mtg. After Worship Y.G. After Worship	4	5 Al-Anon 8pm	6 Adult Study 10am Deacons Mtg 6:30pm	7 Prayer Group/ Thursday Ladies 10am Card Ministry 6:30pm Handbells 6:30pm	8 Brown Bag Ladies 10am	9
10 ^{2¢} A MEAL COLLECTION Choir 9am Adult Study 9:15am Worship/Faithbuilders 10:30am Annual Congregational Meeting After Worship Transformation Group 6:30-7:30pm	11	12 Romeos 8am Game Day 11:30am Al-Anon 8pm	13 Adult Study 10am Book Club 7pm	14 Prayer Group/ Thursday Ladies 10am Card Ministry 6:30pm Handbells 6:30pm Property & Finance Mtg 7:30pm	15	16 VBS Mtg. 10am
17 Choir 9am Adult Study 9:15am Worship/Faithbuilders 10:30am Y.G. After Worship	18 MRC Mtg. 6:30pm	19 Al-Anon 8pm	20 Adult Study 10am Community Outreach 6pm Session Mtg. 7pm	21 Prayer Group/ Thursday Ladies 10am Card Ministry 6:30pm Handbells 6:30pm	22	23
24 Choir 9am Adult Study 9:15am Worship/Faithbuilders 10:30am Lunch & Conversation hosted by Transformation Group	25 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!	26 Game Day 11:30am Al-Anon 8pm	27 Adult Study 10am	28 Prayer Group/ Thursday Ladies 10am Card Ministry 6:30pm Handbells 6:30pm		