

# Trinity Times

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Living around Lake Erie means having to deal with wind. Whether that wind is a summer thunderstorm blowing over the water creating huge waves, or a winter “Clipper” blowing Lake Effect Snow through the trees and bushes, we know all too well how much the wind can toss things around. We have seen the boats bobbing on the Lake like a cork, we have seen the trees swaying like a Samba dancer, we have seen the branches in the grass and the snow drifted in feet not inches. We know how the wind can make things blow all over the place.

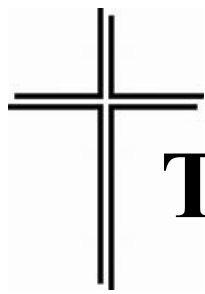
Just as the wind can blow things around, so too can things in this world blow us around spiritually. The wind can blow a boat around on the lake, political leaders and their games can blow people all over the place regarding the issues of the day. The wind can move through the trees threatening to push over or uproot, economic agendas and schemes can threaten to create unemployment, evaporate retirement accounts, and push people into poverty. The wind can drift snow and pile leaves, and the Covid-19 virus has piled up statistics and numbers of the sick and dead. We live in a world that tosses us around like a rag doll, with political tricks, economic hardships, and hidden viral assassins.

Perhaps then in circumstances when the world tosses us about, the following Word of God is needed: *we must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming.* We can relate to the things that tossed the Ephesians around, because they still do to us, heresies, trickeries, craftiness, deceit, schemes. Are these hardships not today's politics, economics, medicine, life. But the word that strikes out the most in this passage is the word children. Only children or a better word the immature allow themselves to be blown around by these things. Someone without experience and/or wisdom falls for the traps and games and schemes of the day, whether in religion, politics, or academics.

If the children are tossed about, then the Word says, *but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.* Children grow up and mature into adults with wisdom, experience, and endurance to cope with the problems of the age. But in our case, we are not growing up into wisdom and perseverance in a literal sense, but we are growing up into Christ who is perfect wisdom, experience, and perseverance. The one closer to Christ is not tossed about, because they are anchored in Christ and can weather the storms blowing around. The closer to Christ, the greater the union and connection, and therefore the greater the storms that can be endured. If we find ourselves tossed around, this might just be evidence we need to grow up into Christ more and more and find our true security and anchorage there.

Therefore, God through the Spirit of Jesus Christ, has given leaders to his people, *the gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors, and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.* The leader's task is to nurture growth in their charges until their grow up. This is their God-given calling to help God's people mature closer and closer into Christ and to greater weather the challenges of the day.

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If we find ourselves tossed about by the deceits of “Big-Tech,” or grieved by the political shenanigans of a political party or upset by the Church’s Spiritual direction or lack thereof or laid low by the virus and its complication or scandalized by the divisiveness of violent factions of liberals and conservatives, all this only serves to prove the point, that if we are being tossed around, we have some growing up to do. If we are being blown around, we need to move closer and closer into our collective union with the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

This means that as leaders we have work to do and people to nurture. But it also means that as laity, we have prayers to say, scripture to study, worship to offer God, and service to our neighbors to perform. We all need to grow up into Christ to become more mature. As leaders and disciples let us set our faces to our callings and with love move ever forward to maturity in Jesus Christ. Let the world’s wind wail as it may, give me the Grace of God to rest in any day.

In Christ,  
Rev. Mark

## **Monthly Communion Procedure**


Due to Trinity being in quarantine, we will continue using the new procedure to celebrate and distribute the communion elements. On the Saturday before our scheduled Communion celebration, Rev. Mark will be blessing pre-packaged and individually sealed wafers and juice. These blessed elements will be distributed on Saturday, February 6th from 11am to 12pm. On Sunday, during the elements section of the video, you may partake of the elements during the service. When you drive through the parking lot, we ask that you remain in your cars, while wearing a mask, and roll down your window and the elements will be handed over to you on a tray. We are still the Church, and we can still celebrate Communion, even if we are socially distancing.

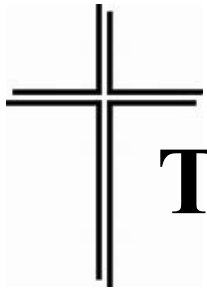
## **Congregational Meeting**

We will be having our annual Congregational Meeting virtually as scheduled on February 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 using Google Meet. The only item on the agenda will be the Terms of Call and all other items will be postponed until we can gather face to face. We will be mailing a letter to every Active Member which will include the terms themselves and a ballot. If you are unable to join the meeting electronically, you may use the ballot to vote instead. Please mark the ballot with your name and vote and mail back to the church address. The votes will be tallied at the virtual meeting. Any questions please call Rev. Mark.



## **Ash Wednesday**

 We will be having our Ash Wednesday service virtually using our YouTube Channel on February 17th. The link will be posted on Facebook and emailed around 6:30pm. We will be celebrating Communion during the service. To that end, we will be blessing and distributing the elements on Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 7pm. You can drive through the parking lot on Tuesday evening and receive your prepackaged and sealed elements for Wednesday. Please wear a mask and roll down your window and the elements will be handed over to you.



# Trinity Times



## **A Note From Session**

Well, we are finally done with 2020. We have hope and prayers for a better 2021. We hope for vaccinations, good health, the ability to safely gather to meet with committees, to study and worship at Trinity. We pray for peace, healing and unity within our country and in all our relationships.

Your session is moving ahead with setting leadership for our committees, setting dates for communion and meetings. We have come up with a plan for taking care of business that needs a congregational vote. That is being addressed by Rev. Mong and the Finance Committee and approved by session.

We will move ahead to fulfill all our duties as your session, with grace and joy and innovation. Let us continue to worship together via YouTube with Rev. Mong every Sunday, as well as read his words of encouragement on his blogs. All are available on [trinityashtabula.org](http://trinityashtabula.org). We thank Rev. Mark for his continuous work in leading us through this trying time.

Blessings for health and the hope that the new year brings.

Mary Belding, Clerk

## **A Note From Scrip**

Thank you for all the support you are giving to the Scrip program. Because of your support, the Scrip Fund was able to donate \$1000 to Trinity's operating fund in January.

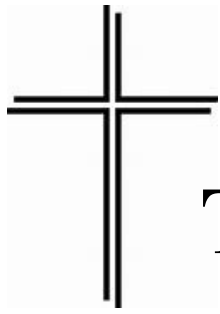
Dee and Mary greatly appreciate our "regular" customers and thank all who participate.

Call or text 440.862.6786, call 964.6073, or e-mail at [mbelding237@gmail.com](mailto:mbelding237@gmail.com).

Blessings from Co-coordinators of Trinity's Scrip Program,

Dee Fassett and Mary Belding





# Trinity Times

## Property and Finance

*Grateful...Thankful...Blessed...*

From your Property and Finance Committee

The 2020 financial audit was recently completed. A big thank you to Dwight, Dee, Craig, and Dorrene for volunteering their time to help complete the audit. We are ever so grateful for Dorrene's superb bookkeeping in managing the church finances! Thank you to Dorrene and all the treasurers. This year's audit was easily completed because of YOU. We recently received another stimulus payment from the State of Ohio in the amount of \$791.16.

Recommendations of contractors are still needed for:

- Estimates on gutters for better drainage.
- Replacement of the double doors located in the back of the sanctuary on the east side.

We have cancelled the contract with our cleaning company which will assist in reducing the church's monthly operating costs. A special thank-you to Mary Belding and Beth Dougherty who are volunteering their time to keep our church clean! If anyone is interested in helping contact Beth at 440-661-1416.

Per Capita for 2021 is \$32.41.

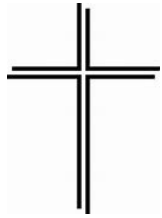
*The Property and Finance committee*

*would like to thank everyone for your continued support.*

*Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. (2 Corinthians 9:6)*

God's blessings to all,

Beth Dougherty



# February 2021

Website [www.trinityashtabula.org](http://www.trinityashtabula.org)

Email [trinitypres04@gmail.com](mailto:trinitypres04@gmail.com)

Elder On Call: Beth Dougherty 440-661-1416

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Communion element Distribution 11am to 12pm
7  <b>Video Worship and Communion Service</b>	8	9	10  Property and Finance 6:30pm	11	12	13
14  <b>Video Worship Virtual Congregational Mtg. 11:30am</b>	15	16  Communion element Distribution 6pm to 7pm	17  <b>Ash Wednesday  Evening Virtual Service</b>	18	19	20
21  <b>Video Worship</b>	22	23	24  Community Outreach 6pm Session 7pm	25	26	27
28  <b>Video Worship</b>						