

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

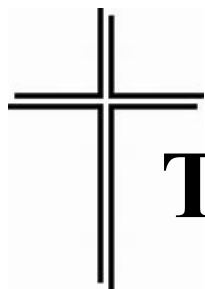
**FEBRUARY 2023
NEWSLETTER**



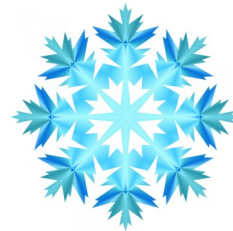
**“You are dust, and to dust
you shall return.”**

Genesis 3:19





Trinity Times



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Snow Day. Nothing inspires more students to joy and trepidation to parents than when the Superintendent informs families that school is not in session due to the weather. While children enjoy the interruption into their schedules, no longer having to take tests, study new ideas and complete homework, parents have a far greater response. Snow Days are an unwelcome interruption because work schedules must be changed because students need supervision. Parents must make changes to appointments and driving schedules, parents have to make sure they have enough milk and bread for kids who would normally be at school. Snow days can be a welcome and an unwelcome interruption into our lives.

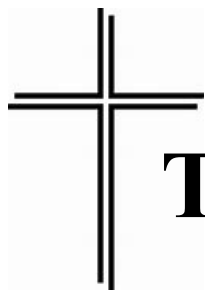
Imagine the interruption in the lives of Simon and Andrew, James and John, when Jesus approaches their boats around the Sea of Galilee. To fish as a profession means to keep schedules, times when the repairs need to be finished, times when sailing out to sea needs to happen, times to throw the nets and times to pull them in. While amid the daily fishing routine, Jesus interrupts, *follow me, I will make you fishers of men*. Stop that work and start my work. Leave this place and follow me to another. The 4 fishermen certainly did not expect an encounter with Jesus, nor allow time in their day for a jaunt elsewhere, yet nonetheless, Jesus interrupts their schedules, routines, and lives with His call to follow. Would it be welcome or unwelcome?

What happens when Jesus interrupts our days? What happens when Jesus interrupts our plans and our schedules, with an unexpected encounter, or an unexpected chore, or an unexpected mission moment, or an unexpected possibility to love an unknown neighbor? Would Jesus' call be welcome or unwelcome? We do have moments of God-awareness when we hear the call, see the opportunity and obey the direction of Christ. But we also have those moments, when out of our aggravations, and in our self-interest, we miss the call, we fail to see, we disobey the direction of Christ. We have moments when we follow the impulses of the Holy Spirit and allow Christ's plan to interrupt our plans, but we also have times when perhaps we resist and end up interrupting Christ's plan, insisting on our own.

The good news of the Gospel is that wrapped up inside the Call of Jesus is not only the power to recognize who is calling us, when that happens; but also, the power to obey it. Jesus is not just the Son of God with the authority to demand obedience. Jesus is also the Son of Man with the faith to give it. Who better to help us accept God's Call upon us, whenever God may give it, that the one who is also the new and perfect Adam who chooses to perfectly follow the direction of God? Jesus is not just God commanding us, but Jesus is also the perfect human able and willing to follow. Jesus is not just God, but also our Brother. This is why the 4 fishers can follow. Most would have blown Jesus off, but these 4 follow, because He has something not seen before. Not just another teacher, with ideas and directives, but with the authority of God. So, the 4 leave behind boats, nets and families and follow Jesus, even amid the enormous interruption to their lives.

Friends, we find ourselves in a few short moments once again in the time of Lent, the season of introspection and transformation. Perhaps what we can do thanks to the Spirit of Jesus Christ, is learn to allow the many interruptions of God into our lives instead of resisting and insisting on our own plans and schedules. Perhaps what we could do this Lent is to step into a time and place where we, without ceasing, follow the direction of God over and in our lives, by giving up our times into the hands of God; instead of following our own directions, by taking our times into our own hands. Perhaps this Lent, we can be more like the 4 fishermen who followed the Call of Christ which interrupts, instead of the 4 who stayed by the Lake. Amen.

In Christ,
Rev. Mark



Trinity Times

A Note From Session

January 2023

Session Newsletter note

At sessions' January meeting, many things were planned for the year.

The church officers were elected:

President/Chair of Property and Finance – Beth Dougherty

Financial Secretary – David Adams

Treasurer – Gina Bartone of G&J Consulting

Clerk/Secretary – Mary Belding

Committee chairs were approved:

Worship and Music – Session will be responsible

Community Outreach - Pam Bloom

Fellowship – Ruth Allen

Property and Finance – Beth Dougherty

Personnel: Craig Reiter, Kathy Fassett, Richard Fassett

Emergency and Safety- Craig Reiter

Memorial – Hobart Shiflet

Nominating – Mary Belding



Trinity's pledge to the wider church was approved at \$3000 with \$1050 to General Assembly, \$150 to Synod of the Covenant, and \$1800 to the Presbytery of the Western Reserve to be divided equally between Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self Development of People.

Our 2cents-a-meal offering will be collected monthly and disbursed locally with 40% to Faith Lutheran Food Pantry, 40% to HomeSafe, and 20% to Samaritan House.

The Annual Statistics Report was approved as presented to be sent to the PCUSA.

Dates for communion were approved: first Sunday of each month and Maundy Thursday

Shared worship services with East Side were approved: Ash Wednesday and Christmas Eve services will be at East Side and Maundy Thursday will be here. Next year those sites will be reversed.

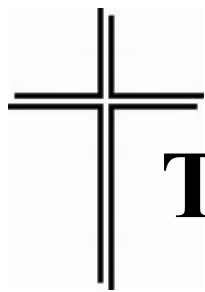
Session continues to work together under the guidance of Rev. Mong and the Holy Spirit to lead Trinity faithfully.

Mary Belding, Clerk



Prayer List

Beverly Cigani, Marion Shipman, Dick LaDu, Mike and Marj Kenny, Pete and Fran Wilson, Pam Winn, Gary Herron, Linda Bennet, Jack Mercer, Elsie Kieth, and Marj Landfried



Trinity Times



A Few Thoughts Regarding Deacons !

It's time to pass the gavel from one Deacon to others ! Seems like I've always been a Deacon ! We talk about "how it used to be" so frequently, and we as Deacons, and as a church in whole, have seen so many changes.

The responsibilities of a Deacon in our church have not changed. We just have fewer people responsible for those duties. I am thankful and grateful for the church members who can carry us onward.....Kathy Depp and Dee Fassett are new Co-Moderators. Karen Reiter, Barb Beatty, Pat Strock, are new Deacons for our church.

I do want to say that David Adams, who has just stepped down as a Deacon, has been a great co-worker and continues to care about our Church and its members. Thank You David, for your years of service !!

Wishing you all continued Blessings, keep Christ in your decisions,
Have a very Happy New Year !

Jane Planisek,
Past Moderator



Community Outreach

Community outreach met Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

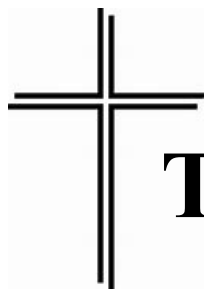
A thank you letter was received from Children Services for the Christmas adoption of six children. This letter has been posted on the Bulletin Board.

The Hat and Mitten Tree is on display for donations through January 29, 2023, at which time they will be donated to Lakeside Schools for distribution as needed.

Trinity T-Shirts and Sweatshirts will be available to purchase through January 31, 2023. Please see Nancy Sabo or the flyer posted in the Church.



The Month of February will be "SOUP"er bowl month. Community Outreach will be hosting fellowship hour with several homemade soups on February 12, 2023. Please bring cans of soup (Chicken Noodle or Cream of Mushroom) or a cash donation for purchasing soup to be given to Faith Lutheran Food Pantry.



Trinity Times

REMOTE AREA MEDICAL



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED; JOIN THE MISSION TODAY!



DENTAL

Dentists
Oral Surgeons
Hygienists
Dental Assistants



VISION

Optometrists
Ophthalmologists
Opticians
Vision Techs



MEDICAL

Physicians
Physician Assistants
Nurse Practitioners
Nurses



GENERAL SUPPORT

Interpreters
Guides
Data Entry
& Much More!

Ashtabula, OH

April 1-2, 2023

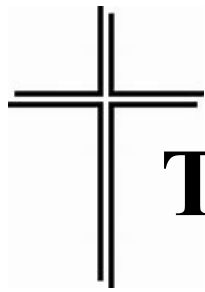
Lakeside High School
6600 Sanborn Rd.
Ashtabula, OH 44004

*"To prevent pain and alleviate
suffering by providing free, quality
healthcare to those in need."*

- RAM's Mission

FOR MORE INFO: RAMUSA.ORG | 865.579.1530





Trinity Times

COME ONE COME ALL

To the

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

@

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Tuesday February 21st 2023

4:00pm-6:00pm

Serving: Pancakes & Sausage & Fruit!

Coffee, Tea, Juice & Milk!

Free Will Offering Accepted

Sponsored & Served by the Trinity Deacons-the Ladies in Red!



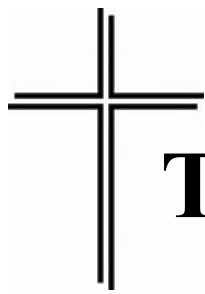
Ash Wednesday Service

February 22, 2023 at 7pm

East Side Presbyterian Church

Imposition of Ashes





Trinity Times

Property and Finance

The 2023 budget has been completed and approved by the session. It will be reviewed at our February Congregation meeting. The internal financial audit is due to be completed on January 21 at the Church. Thank you to all who will be participating!

We have finally replaced the computer in the office with a new laptop that was graciously donated! What a difference this will make. It no longer takes hours for the system to warm up and be ready to use!

Future plans are in the works. A bid to sealcoat and line the parking lot was reviewed and voted on at the October 30 Congregational meeting. As soon as the weather breaks, the contractor will be notified and a date will be set up to begin work. We are planning a clean-up day in April. More information to come in the future. Plans are underway to install the TV in the nursery room which will allow anyone unable to be in the sanctuary to take part in Sunday service. We will be looking into the best solution and options to resolve the problems we have been experiencing with the air conditioning and heat in the sanctuary. For now, the decision has been made that if it's too cold to have Sunday service in the sanctuary, we will meet in the fellowship hall.

Continue keeping the committee in your prayers. God continues to lead us to do amazing things. Thank you for your support!

Beth Dougherty, Rich Fassett, Craig Reiter, Norm Jepson, Josh Hall, Mark Mong, Hobart Shiflet

2022 per capita is \$36.50



Ministerial Relations Committee

The Ministerial Relations Committee (MRC) is available to discuss any concerns that any Church member or visitor might have. This committee was formed to assist in providing a healthy and united church family. If there is something you need to discuss, we will listen and react accordingly.

Please give us the opportunity to work with you.

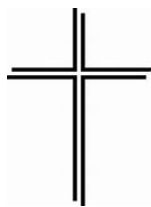
Blessings for a wonderful 2023,

Dale Fassett, 440-228-4119

Pam Bloom, 440-344-7277

Mary Belding, 440-862-6786

Beth Dougherty, 440-661-1416



February 2023

Website www.trinityashtabula.org

Email trinitypres04@gmail.com

Elder On Call: Beth Dougherty 440-661-1416

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bible Study 10 am East Side	2	3	4 Lions Club Breakfast 9am-12 noon Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
		Al-Anon 7 pm	Clean and Free 7 pm	Bible Study 7pm	Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	
5 Face-Face Worship 11:00 am Video Worship Communion	6	7	8 Bible Study 10 am East Side Deacons 3pm Property and Finance 6:00 pm Clean and Free 7 pm	9 Brown Bag Lunch packing 10 am	10	11 Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
		Al-Anon 7 pm		Bible Study 7pm	Crystal Meth Anon	
12 2¢ A Meal Collection Face-Face Worship 11:00 am Video Worship	13	14	15 Bible Study 10am East Side Community Outreach 6pm Session 7:00 pm Clean and Free 7 pm	16	17	18 Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
		Romeos 9 am Debs Diner Al-Anon 7 pm		Bible Study 7pm	Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	
19 Face-Face Worship 11:00 am Video Worship	20	21	22 Bible Study 10 am East Side Clean and Free 7 pm Worship 7pm at East Side	23	24	25 Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
		Al-Anon 7 pm		Bible Study 7pm	Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	
26 Face-Face Worship 11:00 am Video Worship	27 Ministerial Relations 6:30pm	28 Al-Anon 7 pm				Church Office Hours Monday and Friday 10 am-12 pm Wednesday 9:30 am-11:30 am