

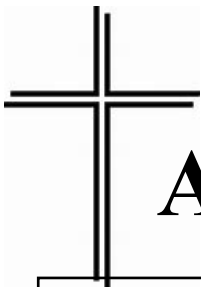
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1342 PROSPECT ROAD
ASHTABULA OH 44004
www.trinityashtabula.org

FEBRUARY 2025
NEWSLETTER



“Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God; for God is love.” 1 John 4:7-8





Ashtabula Times



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

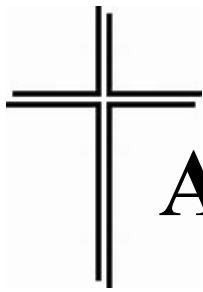
One of the skills I learned in the Boy Scouts growing up was how to use a compass. During our Jamboree, where all the troops in Cleveland gathered to compete against each other in the various skills we were learning, our leaders set up a compass course. Throughout a very large area of the forest, our leaders attached markers with a unique hole punch to trees and then gave us the bearings on how to find them with our compass. We had to run through the forest and find the markers and punch our cards and whoever had the most correct punches received the points. Sometimes, I remember the event being easier than others, we quickly found the markers and sometimes I remember us having to wander the woods until we found them. But most of the time, we were able to find our way even if that way was a long and winding road through the pine trees.

In our time together as two churches, we have experienced moments of the last three years where we arrived at the destinations where God wanted us to go, but we have also experienced moments that felt like a long and winding road through the pine trees. Perhaps we are unsure of what God is calling us to become, or perhaps we have great anxiety about what a merged congregation might look like. While we certainly have all that, and much more, we do have a compass to point us in the faithful direction and to aid us in our discipleship. Proverbs states, *in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths*. Jesus, our Lord knows the path for us to take. Jesus, our Shepherd protect us from those who prey upon us. Jesus, our Provider, gives us every Spiritual gift needed for us to follow. All we can do in those moments of uncertainty and anxiety is to acknowledge Him in every choice and matter, and He will compass us to the faithful end. He will make straight the discerning choices we as a community of faith must make this year.

What I think the Author of the Proverbs is showing us is that no matter how much we don't understand the path or even the destination we really *do not rely on our own insight*. While human insight has provided profound discoveries in energy and medicine, that insight still does not compare to the insight of Jesus Christ. He might just have a more complete and a more faithful insight into what is best for our community. Can we acknowledge he might just know better? But the Author is also showing us that no matter how much an uncertain future frightens us, or how much this drastic change worries us, we can still *trust in the Lord with all your heart*. I worry and I fear, but Christ is faithful until death and entrusts himself to God. He just might be a more faithful human being than we could ever be for ourselves. Can we acknowledge we just might need His help?

Friends, as we face a momentous time of discernment and decision, no doubt we must also face our fears and our anxieties. But we have been promised the Son and the Spirit, our compass to a faithful life together and our energy to live into that life. This means that as have our last town hall meetings, and our last conversations, and our last moments as two congregations, we don't have to be confused, nor afraid. God has promised direction for our minds and *refreshment to our bones*. Faith then it seems, is about acknowledging we don't know the path or the goal, but we know the compass. Faith then it would seem is about confessing that we have neither the courage nor the endurance, but we have the Spirit of God. Our calling seems to be to live these next few weeks and months in discernment, not by fear but by faith, neither by weakness but by the power of God. Let us follow our compass and we will faithfully reach the finish line, even if we must take the long winding road through the pine trees. Amen.

In Christ, Rev. Mark



Ashtabula Times



2025 per capita is \$40.00

REPORT FROM TRINITY'S SESSION

Session met January 15th and the normal business was carried out including:

- Approval of minutes from December session meeting.
- Approval of financial report for 2024.
- The clerk's report included

Thank you notes from Ruth Allen, Kathy Fassett, and Samaritan House.

Election of Officers: Beth Dougherty President (since this is her sabbatical year, she will not be obligated to attend to Property and Finance business), Mary Belding, Clerk, David Adams Financial Secretary, Lori DeCamillo/Capital Business Strategies Treasurer.

Approval of committee chairs: Property/Finance- Beth Dougherty, Worship/Music-Becca Stowell to work with Cathy Burnham from East Side, Community Outreach- Pam Bloom with East Side and First, Fellowship- Ruth Allen, Nominating-Kathy Fassett, Memorial-Nancy Sabo, Personnel- Richard Fassett, Becca Stowell, Craig Reiter, Emergency- Craig Reiter, Presbytery Commissioners- Hobart Shiflet and Mary Belding, Ministerial Relations -Pam Bloom, Dale Fassett. Mary Belding, Beth Dougherty.



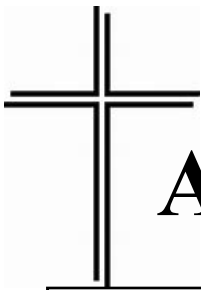
When worshipping at Trinity, communion will be observed the first of the month and also Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve.

Session will meet the third Wednesday of each month except for July. There will be a joint meeting with the deacons February 19 at 6:00pm.

The PCUSA Statistical Report for 2024 was approved.

- The Minister's report included:
 - ◊ A spreadsheet of his calls and visits.
 - ◊ Next Town Hall Feb. 5th at East Side.
- Committee reports
 - ◊ Worship and Music
 - ◆ Liturgists and ushers will be coordinated to serve at East Side and Trinity when worshipping there.
 - ◊ Community Outreach
 - ◆ Meeting with First and East Side to fill out calendar for 2025.
 - ◊ Property and Finance:
 - ◆ The HVAC project will have the CEI portion beginning in 12-16 weeks at a cost of \$7000. We will be responsible for removing two trees.
 - ◊ Deacons: Barb Beatty represented the Deacons
 - ◆ There will be a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
 - ◆ There will be Lenten soup suppers

Mary Belding, Clerk



Ashtabula Times

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.

Pastor's Report:

1. Bible Studies continue.
2. Reviewed Mark's visitations with shut-ins.
- 3.' Town Hall Meeting is February 5, 2025, at 6:30 pm, East Side Presbyterian Church.
4. Deadline for the Newsletter is January 27, 2025
5. The Memorial Service for Joyce Shellhammer will be March 29,2025.
6. Annual Meeting was January 26, 2025.



Clerk's Report: reported on Ordained and Installed officers. Thank You notes were received from Ruth Allen, Nora Giangola and Kevin Johnson.

Elected Church Officers and Committee Chairpersons for 2025.

Set Communion and Session Meeting schedules for 2025,

Reviewed and approved the Statistical Report.

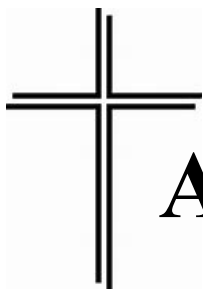
Buildings and Grounds: Discussed roof replacement for the church.

Outreach: Edie outlined their calendar for 2025. A Lady's Night Out is being planned for February 26, 2025.

Worship and Music scheduled Communion Servers for February.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Cathy Burnham
Clerk of Session



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MEETING SCHEDULE

Joint Worship and Music—Monday, February 10th, 6:30pm at East Side

Joint Ministerial Relations Committee—Tuesday, February 11th, 6:30pm at Trinity

Joint Outreach— Sunday, February 16th, After Worship at East Side

East Side Session—Monday, February 17th, 6:30pm at East Side

Trinity Deacons and Elders—Wednesday, February 19th, 6pm at Trinity

Trinity Session—Wednesday, February 19th, 7pm at Trinity

Joint Deacons— Sunday, February 23rd, After Worship at East Side



EASTSIDE'S BIRTHDAYS

18th Ellen Jacobs
24th Keegan Sweet



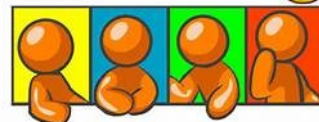
EASTSIDE'S ANNIVERSARIES

None

TOWN HALL

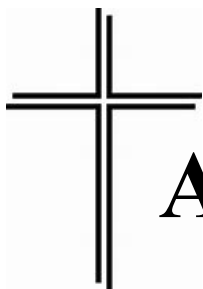
All three Ashtabula City Churches will be meeting on Wednesday, February 5th at 6:30pm in East Side's Sanctuary to continue the storytelling and discernment of our future life together. Members and friends of all congregations are invited to attend the meeting to share experiences and ideas about meshing together.

Town Hall Meeting



PRAYER LIST

Ed & Pat Strock, Genny Wallace, The Family of Mike Kenney, The Family of Roger Peck, Berniece Boggs, Jim & Rose Booth, Jim & Caroline Johnston, Courtney Wetzel, The Family of Charlene Woodburn, Laura Lu Dougherty, Sherrie Northrup, Anika Kelner, 2-Year Old with Cancer, and Nathan Hines



Ashtabula Times

JOINT COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community Council met Sunday, January 19, 2025.

The 2024 Annual Report was reviewed and approved.



A thank you from Samaritan's Purse was received for the 52 Christmas shoe boxes that were prepared by Becki Cleveland.

A thank you was received for the Children's Vitamins and cash that was sent to S.A.R.A.

Our next meeting will be held at East Side after worship on February 16, 2025.

FEBRUARY – "SOUPER" BOWL SUNDAY

We will host a soup and bread luncheon after fellowship on Sunday, February 9th to kick off the "soup" collection. Cans of soup collected will be donated to Faith Lutheran Food Pantry and should an abundance be donated; we will share with others. Cans of soup will be collected throughout the month of February. There will be bins in the narthex of East Side.

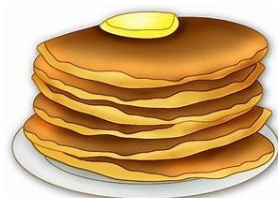


LADIES NIGHT OUT Tentatively scheduled for February 26, 2025

MARCH – One Great hour of Sharing – Hunger-Disaster Self-development Offering

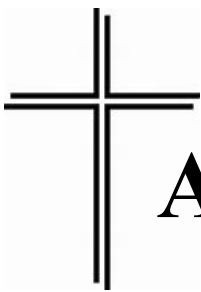


VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:



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

Pam Bloom and Edie Makynen, Co-Chairs



Ashtabula Times

WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgical Day</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Anthem</u>
2/2/2025	4th Sunday in O.T.	East Side	3 Church Choir
2/9/2025	5th Sunday in O.T.	East Side	3 Church Choir
2/26/2025	6th Sunday in O.T.	East Side	3 Church Choir
2/23/2025	7th Sunday in O.T.	East Side	3 Church Choir
3/2/2025	Transfiguration Sunday	Trinity	3 Church Choir
3/5/2025	Ash Wednesday	Trinity	3 Church Choir
3/9/2024	1st Sunday of Lent	Trinity	3 Church Choir
3/16/2025	2nd Sunday of Lent	Trinity	3 Church Choir
3/23/2025	3rd Sunday of Lent	Trinity	3 Church Choir
3/30/2025	4th Sunday of Lent	Trinity	3 Church Choir
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

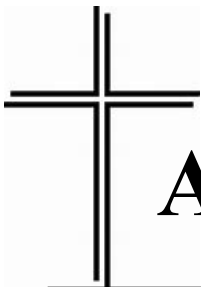


All Services are at
10am

MERGER DISCERNMENT



The Sessions of East Side and Trinity in collaboration with Rev. Mark have appointed a deadline of March 31st to come to a decision on which Church building our community with merge into. We will be having Congregational meetings at each church in April to officially vote as congregations. We then will begin the process with all the appropriate steps to merge our institutions together. Please be aware that our Town Hall Meetings in February and March will be the last times together before the final decision is made. We are changing the time and format of our March meeting to allow those who do not drive at night or work to participate. We hope to see you there.



Ashtabula Times

SCRIP 2024 REPORT

Scrip ran on a limited schedule in 2024.

Funds were contributed to Trinity Operating Fund and Benevolence Fund totaling \$3100.00

Beginning balance 1/01/2024	\$	1,450.28
Income from sales	\$	9,211.00
Expenses (Raise-Right)	\$	7,053.08
(Trinity)	\$	3,100.00
Ending balance 12/31/24	\$	508.20



The balance of \$508.20 will be donated to the Blessing Box at Trinity. The Scrip bank account will be closed. The Scrip ministry will end.

Thank you to all who have supported this mission through the years. It was started by Jill Huggins and serviced through the years by Sue Karvonen, Donna Shiflet, Mary Belding and Dee Fassett.

Respectfully,

Mary Belding and Dee Fassett

LENTEN SUPPERS AND SERVICES

We will once again be celebrating our Lenten disciplines by gathering together on Thursday evenings at 6pm to enjoy a time of food and fellowship followed by a time of worship with prayer, music, scripture and meditations. All are invited to participate. Please be on the lookout for the schedule with the locations and the signup sheets to contribute to the meals. We look forward to seeing you in the season of Lent as we prepare ourselves for Good Friday and Easter.

