

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1342 WEST PROSPECT ROAD
ASHTABULA OH 44004

July/August 2023
NEWSLETTER



Footprints in the Sand

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.

Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.

In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.

Sometimes there were two sets of footprints,
other times there were one set of footprints.

This bothered me because I noticed
that during the low periods of my life,
when I was suffering from
anguish, sorrow or defeat,

I could see only one set of footprints.

So I said to the Lord,

"You promised me Lord,

that if I followed you,

you would walk with me always.

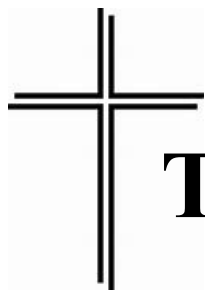
But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life
there have only been one set of footprints in the sand.

Why, when I needed you most, you have not been there for me?"

The Lord replied,

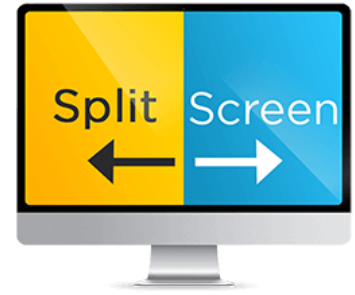
"The times when you have seen only one set of footprints in the sand,
is when I carried you."





Trinity Times

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Building a house is an often long and tortuous process that often has many steps that must be done in order to complete. The first steps of digging and laying the foundation must be done before you can begin to build the framework. The framework must be completed before you can install the roof and walls. The roof and walls must be done before you can install windows, doors, plumbing and wiring. Lastly, you install flooring, siding, and drywall. Would you spend your entire time laying the foundation and never get to the framework and then to the roof or walls? Not if you want to stay in business. The goal is to finish the house, and that means moving through the steps, to complete the project.

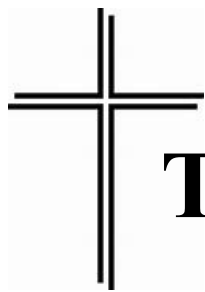
The Author of the letter to Hebrews was also in construction work. But he was not building a house but a church or assembly of people. His struggles lie in the group of people that had at one time learned the basics of faith and action but were struggling to press on in the process of learning and following Christ. Perhaps this explains why he wrote, *therefore let us go on towards perfection, leaving behind the basic teaching about Christ, and not laying again the foundation*. The process of building a church of people, not necessarily an institution, requires completing steps in order, but you never spend your entire time building a foundation. Once it has been laid, you move on to the next steps. The congregation was tired and apathetic and instead of moving past the beginning stages of life together, they were regressing. So, he writes to move on past the foundation stage to the next, to move on to completion or maturity.

In our journeys of discipleship are we pressing on in the process or are we regressing? Are we stuck at the foundation laying or moving on and through the next steps of growth? He lists the foundation elements: *repentance from dead works and faith towards God, instruction about baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgement*. But they serve only as the foundation of the church, to be the support and grounding of God's people, but once laid, the people need to press on to action. Proper knowing always leads to proper acting, and here is our great struggle. The entire goal for which the Father sent the Son and Spirit into the world is to create a people built on the foundation of Christ. But we get stuck on the foundation instead of pressing on. We become mired in the basics instead of living into and living from those basics into "right" actions. We end up being an unfinished house with a foundation but nothing else: with good theology, if we have any at all, but no righteousness.

But the specific situation the author is writing to is not that the people are not progressing or stuck, they are regressing, they are wanting to go back and leaving Christ entirely. The Author offers a warning to them, and us, *for it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened ... and then have fallen away since on their own they are crucifying again the Son of God and are holding him up to contempt*. Once a person has left Christ completely, who could forgive their sins and re-create them? One would need another Christ to bring them back to the first Christ. Perhaps this serves as a warning, to take responsibility for our following Christ. Not to fall or move away, but to press forward in following Christ.

I think we all become tired in our discipleship. Whether our burdens and experiences weigh heavy on our spirits, or our circumstances and situations seem impossible to overcome or resolve, our journeys following Jesus can exhaust us. Friends rejoice, you are among the many disciples across the ages and globe who struggle following Jesus. But what must never happen is our exhaustion and weakness cause us to quit. God's work upon us takes time, it takes training in discipline, and it requires the diligence of faith. We must never stop at the basics but press forward to "right" actions. We must never go back and leave Christ entirely but press forward to the finished building. Our journeys will be at times sweat and hardship, but through the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we can become the finished building, the body of Christ. Amen.

In Christ,
Rev. Mark



Trinity Times

2023 per capita is \$36.50

REPORT FROM SESSION

On Wednesday June 21st Session met. The normal business was carried out, including:

Approval of minutes of May session meeting and an e-mail vote. Session approved use of the Fellowship Hall on the afternoon of July 1st.

Approval of the financial reports.

Letters of thanks to our congregation from GOCDC for our contribution to HIP from our baby shower, and thanks from RAM for our financial assistance for their visit to Ashtabula in April.

Approval of minister's report which included:

A reminder that we will worship with East Side during the summer. August worship at East Side and July and September worship at Trinity. Services to begin at 10:00. All are encouraged to attend.

Bible Studies are Wednesday at 10 at East Side and Thursday at 7 at Trinity. Bible studies will resume following Rev. Mark's vacation.

Rev. Mark listed his calls and visits.

While Rev. Mong is on vacation, worship will be led by Rev. John Gehring-Anders on July 2nd who will serve communion.

For his continued education, Rev. Mong has enlisted personal coaching services for 6 sessions.

Rev. Mong has been accepted the nomination for a 3 year term of service as Vice-Moderator, Moderator, and Chair of the Coordinating Cabinet of the Presbytery. He will begin as Vice-Moderator July 1st. He was installed at the Presbytery meeting on May 22nd. 10 folks from East Side and Trinity attended the meeting.

Committee reports were approved and included:

Worship & Music: Ushers for July will be Kathy Depp and Jessie Smith. Mary Belding will be liturgist.

Fellowship:

We will have a worship service and picnic with East Side on August 13 at Lake Shore Park in the Overlook Pavilion.

Community Outreach:

Trinity continues to generously give food to the Faith Lutheran Food Pantry.

Our annual baby shower was held on May 21st with gifts to HIP program at GO Community Development.

The committee served breakfast on June 20th with 1st Methodist of Jefferson at the fairgrounds for GOBA.

Proceeds will be used to fund our new Blessing Box.

The committee met with East Side's outreach committee on June 8th and shared what they are doing.

July's meeting will be at Hundley Winery with the Outreach from East Side on July 19th at 4:30.

Property and Finance:

Minutes from their meeting were distributed.

Sealing of the parking lot is complete and striping of the parking lot will be done soon.

The Blessing Box will be installed at the north end of the parking lot to accommodate safe access.

Deacons: Kathy Depp was thanked for attending.

They continue visiting and serving communion to shut-ins. Kathy reminded us that there are only 5 deacons at this time.

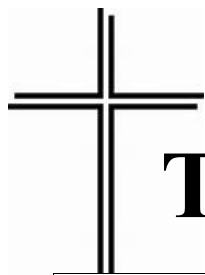
Kathy asked if it is necessary to have a stated Deacon-on-Call. Rev. Mong reminded us that we are all always on call.

Deacons will meet next on August 2nd at 3:30.

Ruth Allen volunteered to attend as the Elder representative.



Mary Belding, Clerk of Session



Trinity Times

REPORT FROM COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community Outreach met jointly with East Side Presbyterian Church on Sunday, June 18, 2023.

The annual Baby Shower for the collection of infant and toddler care items to be donated to G.O. Ministries H.I.P. (Helping Independent Parents) program was held during Fellowship Hour on Sunday, May 21, 2023. Many baby items and gift cards were collected and distributed.

The Outreach Committee along with the Knights of Columbus and Jefferson United Methodist Church worked the early shift on Tuesday, June 20th, to serve approximately 400-500 cyclists participating in the G.O.B.A. (Great Ohio Bike Adventure). The cyclists were camping at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds to participate in a bike adventure featuring Ashtabula, Lake and Geauga Counties during the week of June 16-23, 2023. Our portion of the proceeds, yet to be determined, will be divided between the three organizations participating. Trinity proceeds will fund the supplies for the Blessing Box to be erected soon.



The annual no meeting month of July will be held at Hundley's Winery on Wednesday, July 19th at 4:30 p.m. Anyone can come to our "non-meeting", please let us know ahead of time so we can provide Hundley's with an approximate number attending. This will also be held jointly with East Side Presbyterian so join us for a fun night with no "agenda."

With much appreciation to all who support these worthwhile missions....

The Community Outreach Committee



Church
Committees



Sunday, August 13

Lake Shore Park

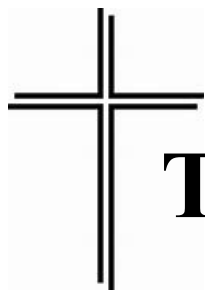
Overlook Pavilion

(East on 1st street)

Worship at 10:30

Potluck at 11:30





Trinity Times

REPORT FROM PROPERTY/FINANCE

The Property and Finance Committee has been working diligently on the upkeep of the church building and grounds. The parking lot has been sealed and lining the parking spaces will be completed soon.

A big thank you to Dale Fassett for creating and donating a Blessing Box. The box will be located in the Northwest area of our parking lot. Panic buttons, for everyone's safety, were recently installed. See Craig Reiter for more information.

We are trying to locate a locksmith to help with a few updates to the church. Please contact Beth Dougherty if you know of anyone.

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, Terry Karvonen, Mark Mong, Hobart Shiflet



2023 per capita is \$36.50

REPORT FROM TRINITY SCRIP FUND

Scrip gift cards are available every Sunday. We have cards for most franchise eateries, grocery stores, gas stations and other shops in Ashtabula.

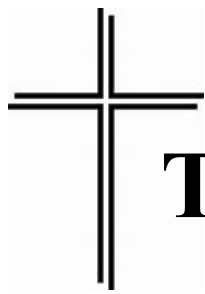
Planning a big job that might require Lowe's or Home Depot? Order gift cards through scrip-we will have them for you within a week!

Thanks to all who support this mission.

Mary Belding

Dee Fassett





Trinity Times

FROM THE EDEN COMMITTEE

Our motto is "Growing Food, Growing Faith".

Summer is upon us and the garden is growing thanks to Dee, Ruth, Kathy and Dale.

Hopefully, we will be able to provide some nutritious enjoyable food again this year. The project started out with much help from many people. We have been able in past years to donate produce to the International Harvest soup kitchen located at the Dream Center at West 57th Street and Washington Avenue. We have brought produce into the church to share with the congregation whenever possible.

Our two wonderful benches donated in honor of the Hoffmans are on the north east corner of our garden area and are still as nice as new. Our Ashtabula neighbors respectfully use them.

Working in the garden is a great way to meet our neighbors and to get to know each other. Come join us!



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

During the months of June to September, Eastside and Trinity will be combining to have a single worship service. Below is the dates and times of our Summer Worship:

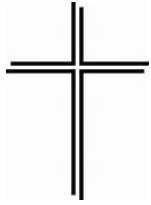
- † July 2023— 10am at Trinity
- † August 2023—10am at Eastside
 - † August 13-10:30 Overlook Pavilion, Lake Shore Park
- † September 2023—10am at Trinity



PRAYER LIST

Beverly Cigani, Mike and Marj Kenny, Dot Fodero, Jenny Wallace, Jen Johnson, Lynda Bennet, Lukas Desai, Kerrie Olzak, Marj Landfried, the David Wigger Family, Chelsy, the Desai Family and Dale Fassett





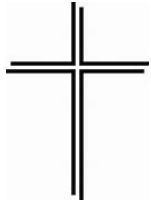
July 2023

Website www.trinityashtabula.org

Email trinitypres04@gmail.com

Elder On Call: Ruth Allen 440-344-0337

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Church Office Hours Monday and Friday 10 am-12 pm Wednesday 9:30 am-11:30 am						1 Lions Club Breakfast 9am-12 noon Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
2 Worship 10:00 am Trinity Communion Video Worship Open Arms Sobriety-7 pm	3	4 Knitting Group - East Side 10-12 noon Al-Anon 7 pm	5 Bible Study 10 am East Side Cardmaking 6:30 pm Clean and Free 7 pm	6 Bible Study 7pm Trinity	7 Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	8 Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
9 Worship 10:00 am Trinity 2¢ A Meal Collection Video Worship Open Arms Sobriety-7 pm	10	11 Romeos 9 am Debs Diner Al-Anon 7 pm	12 Bible Study 10 am East Side Clean and Free 7 pm	13 Brown Bag Lunch packing 10 am Bible Study 7pm Trinity	14 Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	15 Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
16 Worship 10:00 am Trinity Video Worship Open Arms Sobriety-7 pm	17 Cardmaking 6:30 pm	18 Knitting Group - East Side 10-12 noon Trinity Book Group Al-Anon 7 pm	19 Bible Study 10am East Side Clean and Free 7 pm	20 Bible Study 7pm Trinity	21 Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	22 Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
23/30 Worship 10:00 am Trinity Video Worship Open Arms Sobriety-7 pm	24/31	25 East Side 10-12 noon Trinity Book Group Al-Anon 7 pm	26 Bible Study 10am East Side Clean and Free 7 pm	27 Bible Study 7pm Trinity	28	29



August 2023

Website www.trinityashtabula.org

Email trinitypres04@gmail.com

Elder On Call: Kathy Fassett 440-997-7490

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