

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

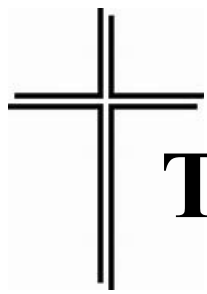
**JUNE 2023  
NEWSLETTER**



**“In the last days it will be, God  
declares, that I will pour out my  
Spirit upon all flesh. “**

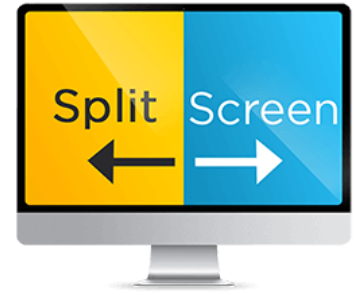
**Acts 2:17**





# Trinity Times

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We had a time when your television was only able to project a single image onto your screen, first in black and white and then in color. Then the manufacturers invented a television which could have two split screens, so you could watch two shows simultaneously. Now, technology has evolved to the point where you can watch two shows on your television, while watching a show on your phone, tablet, and computer all simultaneously. I have heard of rabid sports watchers and rabid gamblers who do so, to monitor their fantasy football teams and/or their favorite soccer teams. But we have gone from the point of watching a single show to watching as many as you have devices to show them, and broadband internet to stream them.

In our text from the Gospel of Luke, Jesus is teaching his disciples about having not a split television screen but having a split or divided focus, *therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear.* The Greek word for worry in a quite literal sense means divided or split in attention and emotions; torn between focusing on God and focusing on our necessities. We split our attentions and devotions from God being the priority to worrying and becoming anxious about the lesser things: food, clothing, and shelter. Instead of focusing on God, we focus instead on the basic elements of existence, and we worry.

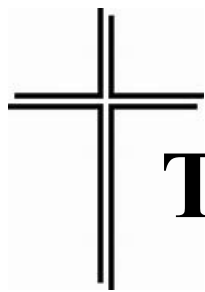
But Jesus reminds his disciples that life is both basic elements like food and clothing but also greater elements like faith and obedience unto God. *For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!* Most certainly, life requires the necessities, but also the greater possibilities. And if God tends to all the necessities of lesser creatures, (lesser only because they lack the Image of God), then how much more will God tend to the greater creatures. We have great value in the heart and will of God, how much greater will be the providence of God? We should not worry about the less important things, still important, but instead focus solely on the greater things.

But Jesus also reminds his disciples that worry doesn't add anything to life, *and can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest?* If we cannot do the small things, then neither can we do the large things. This doesn't mean that we don't do anything, but it means that as creatures we have limits, we simply cannot do what the Creator can do, nor should we try. We should not worry about the things that we have no power or control over. We should instead trust the one who does and do what we can do.

*Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you — you of little faith!* These verses remind us that God does provide for all of creation, and as God's covenant partners, how much more does God clothe and provide for us? Perhaps the problem is not the greatness of our God, but the smallness of our faith. We just have trust issues that God will keep his word and provide, and he can and wants to do. Instead, we focus our attentions and devotions like the split-screen on God and the basics. Instead of focusing on what God has already given, we instead stew over what we lack. And we worry instead of trust.

Perhaps the solutions for our worries and anxieties are the removal of the second split screen and focusing solely on God: *strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.* We don't need to split our attention, energy, and devotion from some on God's Kingdom and some on our daily things. Instead, we can focus and strive for God's Kingdom and the daily things will be added also. Not the lesser but the greater. Not trying to do the impossible but focusing on our possibilities. Not having little faith in God and much in our own ability to scrounge or buy. Not splitting our screens but focusing everything that we have and everything that we are onto the Kingdom of God, and all that other stuff can come as it will, because God promised. Strive for the Kingdom "First," and all the rest will come.

In Christ, Rev. Mark



# Trinity Times



2023 per capita is \$36.50

## REPORT FROM SESSION

On Wednesday May 17th Session met. The normal business was carried out, including:

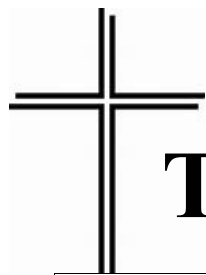
- Approval of minutes of April session meeting and an e-mail vote. Session approved transferring \$10,000 from our investment accounts to our operating account.
- Approval of the financial reports.
- Letters of thanks to our congregation from Barb and Jerry Jefferies for assistance from the deacons, City of Ashtabula for our work on Earth Day, Homesafe for our continued assistance, First United Church of Christ in Austinburg for our donation of water and cash, and thanks from Jaquie Quine from East Side concerning the Lenten worship services.
- Approval of minister's report which included:
  - ◇ A reminder that we will worship with East Side during the summer. June and 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.
  - ◇ Rev. Mark listed his calls and visits.
  - ◇ There was a review of the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Town Hall Meeting. Folks appreciated the positivity. Up-coming events that we will share include our August picnic at Lake Shore Park, Thanksgiving dinner at East side, Outreach committees will meet together in June, there will be Minutes-for-Mission at each church during the summer. All groups from Trinity are invited to share their purpose during that time.
  - ◇ While Rev. Mong is on vacation, worship will be led by Joyce Shellhammer on June 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and Rev. John Gehring-Anders on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - ◇ 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 1<sup>st</sup>. He was installed at the Presbytery meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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:
  - ◇ There is upcoming publication of a cookbook. Ruth Allen is accepting recipes.
  - ◇ We will have a worship service and picnic with East Side on August 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 21<sup>st</sup> with gifts to HIP program at GO Community Development.
  - ◇ The committee will be serving breakfast on June 20<sup>th</sup> with 1<sup>st</sup> Methodist of Jefferson at the fairgrounds for GOBA. Proceeds will be used to fund our new Blessing Box.
- Property and Finance:
  - ◇ Minutes from their meeting were distributed.
  - ◇ The handrail in the sanctuary has been installed.
  - ◇ The ceiling fan in the sanctuary has been repaired.
  - ◇ Sealing and striping of the parking lot will be done soon.
- Deacons: Dee Fassett was thanked for attending and reported that the deacons would like some assistance with serving communion to shut-ins. Rev. Mong reminded us that anyone who has been ordained as a deacon or elder can serve communion.
- Personnel: The committee made a motion that was approved to give Cheryl Hall one month's salary as a severance package. Session expressed gratitude for her service.

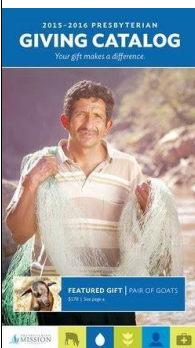
Mary Belding, Clerk of Session



# Trinity Times

## REPORT FROM COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community Outreach met Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.



The Lenten season cash collection has been completed. The free will offering collected during the three Lenten services and soup dinners has been graciously contributed to our collection for the following items purchased by Trinity from the 2023 Presbyterian Mission Catalog:

Garden Well – 10 shares - \$500

Latrine – 1 at \$350

Jerry Cans – 9 at \$25 - \$225

Sewing Machines – 5 at \$50 - \$250

**FOR A GRAND TOTAL COLLECTED: \$1,325.00 – Thank you Trinity!!!**

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 will be held during Fellowship Hour on Sunday, May 21, 2023. Joyce Kren advised that they need diapers and wipes. They do not, however, need newborn diapers at this time.



Ashtabula County is hosting for the first time the G.O.B.A. (Great Ohio Bike Adventure). Approximately 1,000- 1,500 bicyclists will be gathering at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds to cycle around Ashtabula and Geauga Counties during the week of June 16-23, 2023. We are uniting with First United Methodist Church in serving breakfast to cyclists participating. The breakfast will be served on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 from 5:30 A.M. until approximately 8:00 a.m. Anyone interested in volunteering to help serve the be-

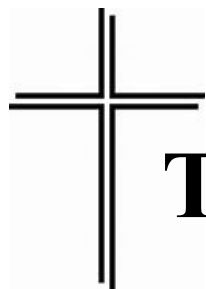
fore sunrise oatmeal bar please contact Pam Bloom. The proceeds from this breakfast will be divided between the churches participating. The Community Outreach has voted and Session has approved to have Trinity proceeds go toward stocking the Blessing Box.

Dale Fassett has built a Blessing Box that will be placed outside once Property and Finance and Session approves of location. The Box will be filled on Thursdays to provide for the one day of the week that lunch is not provided in our neighborhood for those in need. More on the Blessing Box as this project develops.

Community Council will meet jointly with East Side Presbyterian Church after service on Sunday, June 19, 2023.

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





# 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 new fan has been installed in the sanctuary. A new handrail has been installed in the sanctuary alter area. The decision was made to put a hold on replacing the air conditioning unit. We will address at a later time/year if necessary.

A big thank you to Josh Hall and Mike Dixon for fixing the plumbing problems in the handicapped restroom and installing the new faucets in the kitchen! Your contribution is greatly appreciated!

We are continuing our contract with Richardson's to keep the grass cut. They are also going to weed and lay new mulch in the front landscaping. We will also be setting up a time in the near future to seal and line the parking lot.

Thank you Ruth Allen for weeding around the West and South sides of the church building. What a change it has made!

The church has made the first \$10,000.00 withdrawal from investments to assist in operating expenses. It is our hopes that we will only have to do this 1-2 additional times in 2023.

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

## **REPORT FROM TRINITY SCRIP FUND**

### **Report April 2023**

Dee Fassett and Mary Belding continue providing gift cards that, in turn, provided rebates that make it possible for the Scrip Program to contribute to Trinity.

<b>Beginning balance</b>	<b>4/01/23</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>963.53</b>
<b><i>Income from sales :</i></b>	<b><i>Apr</i></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,485.00</b>
<b><i>Cost of cards</i></b>	<b><i>Apr</i></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,769.05</b>
<b><i>Shipping</i></b>	<b><i>Apr</i></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>31.50</b>

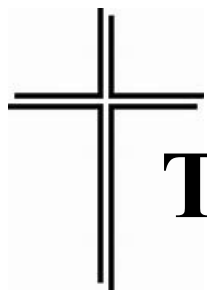


**Ending balance Apr 30, 2023      \$ 647.98**

Thanks to all who support this mission.

Mary Belding

Dee Fassett



# Trinity Times

## **FROM THE EDEN COMMITTEE**

It is finally spring and time to plant!

Folks have been working hard at cleaning up the beds in preparation for planting. If there is something you would like to be grown in our garden, please let Dee, Ruth, Joyce or Mary B know.

We are happy to share what we grow and really happy for any help in doing so!!



## **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:

June 2023—10am at Eastside

July 2023— 10am at Trinity

August 2023—10am at Eastside

September 2023—10am at Trinity

## **GRADUATION OPEN HOUSE**

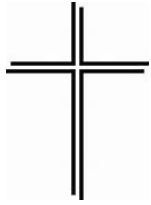
Rev. Mark and Liz Mong would like to invite you to attend an open house in celebration of their son William's graduation from Lakeside High School and Liz's graduation from The Notre Dame College with a Master's of Education. The open house will be on Saturday, June 17th from Noon until 4pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please come and enjoy food and fellowship to help them celebrate.



## **PRAYER LIST**

Beverly Cigani, Mike and Marj Kenny, Lynda Bennet, Lukas Desai, Kerrie Olzak, Marj Landfried, the David Wigger Family, Chelsy, the Desai Family and Dale Fassett





# June 2023

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

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

**Elder On Call: Kathy Fassett 440-997-7490**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Church Office Hours</b> Monday and Friday 10 am-12 pm Wednesday 9:30 am-11:30 am				1	2	3 Lions Club Breakfast 9am-12 noon Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
4 <i>Trinity Sunday</i>  <b>Worship 10:00 am East Side Communion</b> <b>Video Worship</b> Open Arms Sobriety-7 pm	5	6  Knitting Group - East Side 10-12 noon Al-Anon 7 pm	7  Bible Study 10 am East Side Cardmaking 6:30 pm Clean and Free 7 pm	8  Brown Bag Lunch packing 10 am Bible Study 7pm Trinity	9  Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	10  Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
11  <b>2¢ A Meal Collection</b> <b>Worship 10:00 am East Side</b> <b>Video Worship</b> Open Arms Sobriety-7 pm	12	13  Romeos 9 am Debs Diner Al-Anon 7 pm	14  <i>Flag Day</i>  Bible Study 10 am East Side	15  Bible Study 7pm Trinity	16  Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	17  Billy & Liz Mong Graduation open house Noon-4 @ Trinity  Saturday Night Delight 7pm
18 <i>Father's Day</i>  <b>Worship 10:00 am East Side</b> <b>Video Worship</b> Open Arms Sobriety-7 pm	19  Cardmaking 6:30 pm	20 G.O.B.A. Break- fast-Fairgrounds Knitting Group - East Side 10-12 noon Trinity Book Group Al-Anon 7 pm	21 <i>SUMMER</i> Bible Study 10am East Side Property and Finance 6:00 pm Clean and Free 7 pm	22  Bible Study 7pm Trinity	23  Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	24  Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
25 <b>Worship 10:00 am East Side</b> <b>Video Worship</b> Open Arms Sobriety-7 pm	26	27  East Side 10-12 noon Trinity Book Group Al-Anon 7 pm	28  Bible Study 10am East Side Session 7:00 pm Clean and Free 7 pm	29  Bible Study 7pm Trinity	30  Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	