

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

JUNE 2024

NEWSLETTER



“For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.”

1 Corinthians 12:13-14



Ashtabula Times



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As a young boy, we had a bug zapper in the back yard. The purpose was to remove all of those pesky mosquitos from the back yard area so we could stay out on the back patio late at night. The bug zapper attracts the mosquitos and other biting insects to it and then kills them with a surge of electrical current. The better the device could attract the insects the more it could kill and the more peace we could have in the back yard.

For many years now the Church has thought of itself as being *attractional* in nature. The more attractions a church has the more people a church could attract to itself. Like a bug zapper the church's purpose is to attract more people, more attendance and ultimately more money. So, churches built elaborate and luxurious sanctuaries and buildings in the hope of attracting people to come. Churches provided program after program in the hopes of attracting people to their campus. Churches began to hire better educated and better qualified staff in the hopes of drawing more people to their congregation. Churches began to offer the "bells and whistles" of smoke and lights during worship, 12 different small groups, and directors of Christian Education all in an attempt to attract more people, and to ultimately attract more money and more security; and for a period of time, churches were quite successful at doing so.

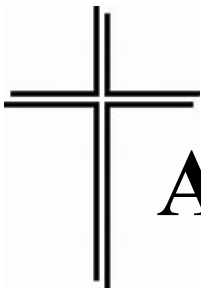
The problem is being an *attractional* church does not work anymore. Not only does another congregation always have more "bells and whistles" than ours does, but in fact church was never meant to be *attractional* at all. Look at the entire book of Acts and you will see not an *attractional* church at work but a *missional* church at work. Does the first congregation of the church try to attract new members to itself or does the first congregation go out on "mission" to reach others? Peter reaches the crippled beggar in the temple, Peter speaks to the crowd on Solomon's Porch, Stephen speaks to the council, Philip in Samaria, Philip and the eunuch on the wilderness road, Paul in Damascus, Paul in Jerusalem, Peter in Lydda and Joppa, Paul on the first, second and third missionary journeys, Paul in Rome. The entire book of Acts is the Church *missional* not the Church *attractional*; and *God adds people daily*.

By now you may have heard of the study and report presented on the various forms of social media about how mainline churches are dying because younger generations of people are leaving the church in droves. I do not presume to have "the" answer to the church's problems, but instead offer maybe the correct question, Did Jesus Christ create an *attractional* church or a *missional* church? Depending on the answer to that question, why then are we worried about the death of the *attractional* church which Jesus did not create? Instead, just maybe, what if the death of the *attractional* church means for us the possible resurrection of the *missional* church? Plainly stated, what if the days of trying to get outsiders **in** the church are over (and maybe rightly so), and the days have returned of trying to get the insiders **out** of the church **into** the community?

I have no doubt that many Christians are worried and anxious over the future of their particular branches of the one, holy, and universal Church. But, what if instead of lamenting the death of a church model that doesn't work anymore and maybe was never intended by Christ; we instead rejoice over the opportunity to be the church that we were always supposed to be and never became? What if we are called to be a Church that goes out into our communities instead of a Church that tries to get our communities into our buildings and bank accounts?

My brothers and sisters in Christ, while some are lamenting and sorrowful over the dying of the church buildings, programs and budgets, the good news for us, is that this time is also an opportunity for faithfulness and obedience to the will of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Instead of working on roofs, carpets and programs, we now can instead work on people, relationships, and human beings. Perhaps that was the way it was always meant to be or perhaps that was the vision Christ had for us, or perhaps that is just the wishful thinking of a misguided pastor who spends too much time praying and dreaming for the new world created by God through Jesus Christ; but one thing is certain, we as a Church must make the change to us going **out** instead of them coming **in**; or we just may not have much of a future at all.

In Christ, Rev. Mark



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2024 per capita is \$38.00

REPORT FROM TRINITY'S SESSION

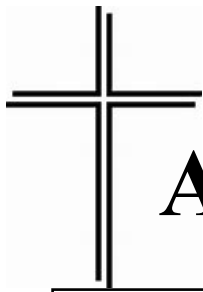
On Wednesday May 15th Session met and the normal business was carried out, including:

- Approval of minutes of April Session meeting.
- Approval of the financial reports.
- The clerk's report included:
 - ◇ Thank You note from Becki Cleveland for the luncheon at the leadership workshop.
 - ◇ A thank you from the Northrup family for flowers sent for the funeral of Esther Northrup.
 - ◇ The notes are posted in Fellowship Hall.
 - ◇ Session approved sending a requested Certificate of Transfer to Venice Presbyterian Church in Venice Florida for Norman Jepson.
- Approval of minister's report which included:
 - ◇ Rev. Mark listed his calls and visits.
 - ◇ Bible Studies will be Wednesday mornings at 10am at East Side and Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm at First.
 - ◇ Rev. Mong has been serving as Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery. He will begin serving as Moderator in June. He serves on the Moderators Committee, the Vision Task Fund and the Coordinating Cabinet of the Presbytery.
 - ◇ There was an officer training and discernment session at Trinity on Saturday April 27th with 32 officers from 4 of the 6 Ashtabula County churches present.
 - ◇ There will be a Town Hall meeting on June 5th at 6:30 at First Pres. to consider how the three Ashtabula Presbyterian churches can move forward with meshing.
 - ◇ There will be a service on June 9th at 4:00 pm for the installation of Rev. Mong at East Side.
 - ◇ Session approved the baptism of Andrew David DeFranco, son of Shane and Sarah DeFranco on June 16th.
 - ◇ During Rev. Mong's vacation, the pulpit will be filled by Rev. John Gehring-Anders July 7th and Rev. Eric Dillenbeck on July 14th.



Committee reports were approved and included:

- Worship & Music:
 - ◇ The summer worship schedule:
Worship will be at 10:00
June worship will be at First Presbyterian Church, Ashtabula
July worship will be at East Side
August worship will be at Trinity (picnic at Lake shore Park on August 11th).
- Property and Finance:
 - ◇ The committee now meets on the third Wednesday at 6:00
- Fellowship:
 - ◇ Leftovers were donated to the breakfast at First Baptist Church.
 - ◇ The cookbook is in publication. Proceeds from the sale of the cookbook will go to



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REPORT FROM TRINITY'S SESSION (continued)

Community Outreach.

- ◇ June 2nd will be a potluck following worship.
- ◇ June 16th (Father's Day) there will be a strawberry social following worship.
- ◇ We were reminded that there is nothing in scripture that requires weekly coffee hours.
- Community Outreach:
 - ◇ We received a thank you note for our participation in the Ashtabula City Clean-up Day Saturday April 20th.
 - ◇ In May we sponsored a collection for spices for GO's kitchen.
 - ◇ In June there will be a fundraiser for the Sheriff's Dept K9 Unit.
- Deacons:
 - ◇ Louise Skarlinski was thanked for attending.
 - ◇ The deacons contributed \$200 to the Blessing Box.
- Scrip:
 - ◇ After their inventory close out, Scrip donated \$200 to the Community Outreach Fund and \$2,900 to Trinity Operating Expenses.
- Ministerial Relations:
 - ◇ Folks are reminded that the committee is available to discuss any concerns within the church.
 - ◇ Dale Fassett, Beth Dougherty, Pam Bloom, and Mary Belding are available.

Mary Belding, Clerk of Session

REPORT FROM EASTSIDE'S SESSION

From the Deacons: 71 were served Communion. Shut-ins were also served Communion. The Minutes were approved. The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved.

Pastor's Report:

1. Bible Studies resumed on Wednesdays and Thursday.
2. Presbytery will be held on May 20, 2024. Mark will be installed as Moderator of Presbytery for a one term.
3. Town Hall Meeting will be June 5, 2024, at First Presbyterian Church.
4. Installation for Mark to be Installed as Pastor at East Side will be June 9, 2024, at 4:00 P.M. The offering taken will go to Emergency Support and Grazier Support Scholarship Fund.
5. Mark will be on vacation July 1st to July 14th. Rev. John Gehring-Anders will fill the pulpit on July 7th and Rev. Eric Dillenbeck will fill the pulpit July 14th.

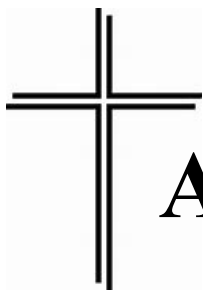
Committee Reports:

- Buildings and Grounds: The windows in the Sanctuary have been professionally cleaned. Sign has been fixed. The timer on the outside lights has been changed.
- Outreach: \$416.00 sent to Trinity for the Blessing Box. June 9th we will be collecting monetary donations for the Ashtabula K-9 Unit.



Reminder that August Ashtabula 11, 2024 is the date for the picnic at Lake Shore Park.

Cathy Burnham, Clerk of Session



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EASTSIDE'S MEETING SCHEDULE

Combined Choir—Will Resume September 8th at 9am, location TBD

Session—Monday, June 17, 2024 at 6:30pm

Knitting Group—2nd and 4th Tuesday of Each Month from 10am—12pm

Yes You Can Crafting Group—Every Monday 9:30am-Noon

Worship and Music—June 10th at 6:30pm



EASTSIDE'S BIRTHDAYS

2nd—Robert Wetzel
11th—Rosemary Peck
23rd—Fran Cogan
25th—Russ Makynen
25th—Bonnie Pocza
27th—Sandra Brown



EASTSIDE'S ANNIVERSARIES

8th Ed & Ruth Best

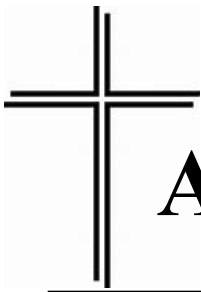
TOWN HALL

All three Ashtabula City Churches will be meeting on Wednesday, June 5th at 6:30pm in First Presby.'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.



Genny Wallace, Gerry Giangola, Greg Elliot, Family of Walt Barnes, Family of Jan Paananen, Jerry Jeffries, Mary Gill, Jamie Newhart, Cliff Titus, John Bonus, John Stevenson, all families in conflict, Family of Allen Frantz, and the Family of Jerry Hodge.

PRAYER LIST



Ashtabula Times

JOINT COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Jeannie Szilagyi came and spoke to the group regarding the S.A.R.A. Mission. She suggested vitamins and money for children hospitals. A luncheon meeting will be held at Edie Makynen's home (1718 So. Ridge West, Ashtabula) on Wednesday, June 26 th at 11:30 a.m.



Mission projects moving forward:

JUNE



Donations for the Ashtabula K-9 Unit

June we are collecting for the Ashtabula k-9 Unit. This is a self-funded program. We have a tentative demonstration scheduled for 6/9 following worship at First Presbyterian Church.

JULY

**School supplies will
Be Collected**



Board of Elections regarding Volunteers

CONTACT: Katie Blair 440-576-6925
kmlair@boe.ashtabulacounty.oh.gov



One Bible Initiative:

Looking for soft covered bibles for
THE WAY OUT PRISON MINISTRY
ATTN: CHAPLAIN WILOX
P. O. Box 517, Akron. OH. 44334



Ladies Night Out: July 17th

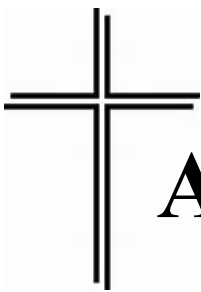
Volunteer Opportunities:

Baptist Church M-F 8:30 – 10 AM – Serve and/or Bring Food
G.O. Ministries – 1 day a month 10-4 Mon- Thursday



Thanks for all you continue to do for our Community...

Joint Outreach Committee



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SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Date	Occasion	Church
June 2nd	9th Sunday in Ordinary Time	First Pres.
June 9th	10th Sunday in Ordinary Time	First Pres.
June 16th	11th Sunday in Ordinary Time	First Pres.
June 23rd	12th Sunday in Ordinary Time	First Pres.
June 30th	13th Sunday in Ordinary Time	First Pres.
July 7th	14th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Eastside
July 14th	15th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Eastside
July 21st	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Eastside
July 28th	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Eastside
August 4th	18th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Trinity
August 11th	Picnic	Lakeshore Park
August 18th	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Trinity
August 25th	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time	Trinity



All Services are at
10am

COFFEE HOUR

First Presbyterian would like to invite everyone for a “strawberry” coffee hour on June 16th following worship to celebrate Father’s Day. No coffee hour will be held on June 9th, 23rd and 30th.



POT LUCK



First Presbyterian, Ashtabula will host a Potluck following worship on Sunday, June 2nd to celebrate the new meshed relationship of the three city churches. During the potluck the three congregations will do something mission related or discuss opportunities for shared mission during the summer months. Please come and join us for a time of worship, a time of fellowship, and a time of discernment.