

Trinity Times

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

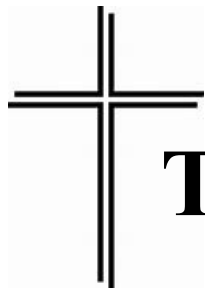
The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. As I sit here and type these words from Scripture, our community looks and feels far from this vision of God's peaceful kingdom. The violence, the destruction, the cruelty, the harsh words, the injustice, the accusations and judgments from many in our country and from the mouths of confessing Christians nonetheless; these things of our current reality fall miserably when compared to God's vision of predator and prey co-existing, of natural enemies sharing the same space peacefully. *They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain,* says the Lord, but we sure are hurting and destroying on the streets of America.

But while I grieve for the degeneration of our communities, I am reminded that the God's vision of the peaceful Kingdom only is created after the work of God's Messiah. The verses about predator and prey only come after the Root of Jesse endowed with the Spirit of God is ruling over the land. The Messiah and the Messiah alone has the *Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, Counsel and Might, knowledge, and the fear of God.* The Messiah alone is *the one who delights in the fear of God.* After the senseless murders and destruction, many have taken to the streets with words and actions. Scores of people have flooded cyberspace with the words of prophets and leaders. But many have also decided to build yet another human kingdom claiming for themselves a self-wisdom, self-understanding, self-counsel, self-might, self-knowledge and a fear of nothing. Many have claimed, are claiming and will claim to be the sole builder of the next great, just human kingdom: to make America great again or to be the true builders of Democracy. But the Kingdom of God only comes after the work of God's Messiah and none of these are the Root of Jesse, none are Jesus Christ.

The reason this is so dreadfully important, is because when people self-judge, inevitably the people are going to fall short in that judging. We judge by what our eyes see and our ears hear. We judge by the evidence, which can be manipulated, planted, coerced, and fabricated. But when Jesus judges *he does not judge by what his eyes see or decides by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.* He will not be conned or played by human schemes and lies, but he will instead judge the human heart and the evils that lie therein and will judge right and true. No politician can do so, no judge sitting on a judgment seat can do so, no self-proclaimed expert on twitter or Facebook can do so, no conspiracy theorists, no sociologists, no anthropologists, no pastors. Only Jesus Christ, and in Christ alone.

So then, why do we so fervently and zealously try to create a Kingdom of Peace as described in Isaiah, without Jesus Christ? Matching our own powers against the powers of this world. Instead of trusting in the Grace of God, we instead trust in the power which violence brings us. Instead of trusting in the Grace of God, we instead seek voters and allies politically. Instead of trusting in the Grace of God, we use sometimes lethal force to push back against those using force against us. Instead of cooperating with the Messiah, in our sheer frustrations and grief, we press the issue, because in our perceptions, Jesus is taking too long, and Jesus' ways are not producing results. Instead of the wolf dwelling with lamb, we build kingdoms where the lambs shoot the wolves. Instead of God's peaceful Kingdom under the Root of Jesse, we are building a kingdom of humankind, where everything and even God is under us.

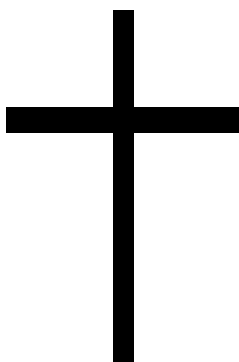
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But we are not Jesus Christ and every attempt to try to produce timely results actually turns us into devils who instead of helping build the Kingdom of God, become stumbling blocks the Builder must reject, or become salt that has lost its saltiness. Does this mean we do nothing against injustice, allow corrupt police officers to shoot black people in the back or crush the breath out of someone in handcuffs. No, absolutely not. But it does mean, that we must be a responsible part of God building God's Kingdom under Christ in the Spirit. Another kingdom of humankind falls short and works against God. The Kingdom of Peace in Isaiah only comes about **under and in** the Kingdom of Jesus Christ and not any other kingdom. Will you acknowledge his Kingship or try to establish your own? Will you speed up the time and results of Jesus' Kingdom, or trust in God's timing and God's ways? Will you do nothing and expect others to bear the responsibility while you go to Florida? Or will you bear the responsibility laid upon us in our Spirit-given callings and lift Jesus up as King and Lord in peace and justice? Faith in Jesus Christ to redeem Creation or faith in yourselves to play God? May Jesus reign in peace and justice!

In Christ,
Rev. Mark





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Worship Resumes

We will be resuming our worship services in the sanctuary on Sunday, June 7th at 10:30am. Please take note of the following guidelines.

- Only the Front door by the Sanctuary will be unlocked, so everyone will need to enter there.
- We will be asking everyone to wear a mask and we will have extras available if you need one or forgot one.
- We will be having Ushers available to seat you in the pews to keep everyone six feet apart.
- We will not be having bulletins; everything will be projected onto the screen.
- We will not be singing any songs or passing the peace.
- We will be changing how we serve communion.
- We will also be continuing recorded worship on YouTube if you are not up to worshipping in person just yet.
- We will be worshipping God *in Spirit and Truth!*
- Any questions please call the Church Office.

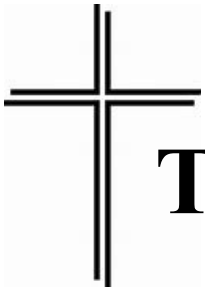
Wednesday Bible Study

Our Wednesday Morning Bible Study will resume on June 3rd at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. We will be reviewing the lessons covered in Galatians and continuing. Please bring a mask to wear.

Thursday Bible Study

We will be beginning our Thursday Evening Bible Study on June 4th at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. No experience or prerequisite knowledge of the Bible needed. Just come as you are and we ask that everyone bring a mask to wear.

On Sunday, **June 7th**, there will be a **Congregational Meeting** immediately following the Worship Service.



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A Note From Session

Sisters and Brothers,

Your session was finally able to meet together on Wednesday May 20 for our regularly scheduled meeting. This was our first face-to-face meeting since mid-March. What a joy to be together to take care of the business of being at church!

Session approved the opening of Trinity for worship on June 7th. There is a committee working on the logistics of that occurring safely.

As you know, we started a landscape project last fall and approved to move forward with the new plantings as soon as the congregation votes to do so.

Amber Balista has completed her internship with us. We hope to welcome her to a Fellowship gathering when that is possible to thank her for her time and energy and to wish her the best for her future as a Minister of the Word.

Session would like to thank the Deacons for all they have done to keep in touch with our members.

Session wants to extend a well-deserved Thank You to Rev. Mark for all the work he has done through this trying time. He has shared the word and the love of God through his blogs and his Sunday services.

Pam Bloom will be the Elder-on-Call for June.

Blessings,
Mary Belding, Clerk





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A Note From Scrip

Dear Friends,

The past months have been quite the learning experience. Being away from the normal life we have lived has been interesting. I have found myself going through a gamut of emotions, from being lonesome, angry that life is so different, worried about friends and family, growing closer to neighbors, loving time to just sit and read, being amazed at how we all can reach out to each other even though we can't have face-to-face contact.

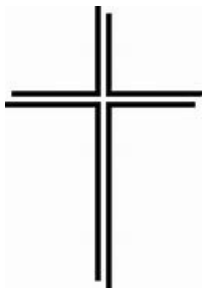
Yeah, blah, blah, blah, Mary...how are we going to ramp up Scrip?
Dee and I have tried to come up with a plan...

Some folks have contacted me to ask for scrip cards, and we have managed to do that transaction with personal delivery. I know we are not yet comfortable with close contact, but I think we can keep the Scrip program going.

If you want Scrip cards, please call 964-6073, text 862-6786, or e-mail mbelding237@gmail.com to place an order. If we have the cards you want, we should be able to get them to you quickly. If we have to order cards, it will take at least a week to receive them.

Blessings and be well,
Mary Belding and Dee Fassett





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Community Outreach

Even under a Stay at Home Order Community Outreach and Trinity have been busy providing for others. In the last couple months we have made and distributed 630 masks. Some of which were delivered to the following:

Dr. Varghi office
Burns Kids College (child care)
The Sanctuary of Geneva
Ashtabula County Nursing Home
Carrington Park Nursing Home
Hospice of Western Reserve
MYA Woman' Health Centers
Presbytery of the Western Reserve
First Presbyterian Church
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Bright View



Youth Opportunities indicated that they were still giving out meals for an hour a couple times a week and would love to be able to provide some home baked goods as well. Trinity again answered the call with "Soup for Sweets". A drive by exchange was scheduled and again Trinity answered the call in a big way with the following:

35 dozen cookies and 10 loaves of assorted breads, 2 cakes, 2 dozen muffins, 3 dozen brownies, and chocolate covered pretzels.

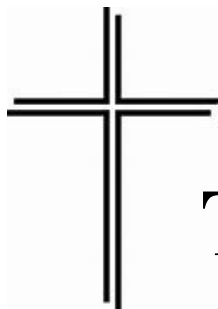
We gave 6 quarts of soup to YO and handed out about 15 quarts of soup to those who dropped off baked goods.

Both projects were a huge success and a joy to do!

Thanks to everyone for your time, effort and love!!

Pam Bloom





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Property and Finance

Grateful....Thankful....Blessed....

Financial updates

Prior to the pandemic, I attended an Ashtabula City Council meeting to inquire why the church has been charged a monthly sewer fee on a lot that has no dwelling. We have been charged by the City of Ashtabula for sewer charges to the lot adjacent to the church property. This lot is where the garden has been. The city has reviewed our information and will be discontinuing this charge. They are also reimbursing us for the monthly charges from 3/2018.

Happy birthday Church! May 31 is Pentecost and we ask that you remember that the local portion of the offering will support Youth Opportunities here in Ashtabula. Please remember to send your Pentecost donation to the Church.

Property

The church has entered into a contract with Richardsons Lawn Care to maintain and care for the church property. The contract provides total lawn care of all church property from June through October for \$250.00 per month.

We recently received a quote for the landscaping around the building. We will bring this information to the congregation at our next congregational meeting. We need to move quickly to make sure this gets done this year.

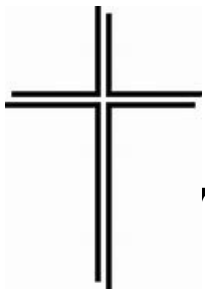
A water return valve was replaced on the boiler due to a slow leak.

Fire extinguishers have been recently overhauled and are good for another year.

The Property and Finance committee
would like to thank all who have continued supporting the church during these
difficult times.

God be with you,

Beth Dougherty



Trinity Times

Transform.....Change.....Purpose.....

What is God calling you to do? I recently asked myself this question. How can I help the people around me and in the community-What is My Purpose?

Catholic Charities holds various classes for people who need a “jump start” back into what we call “the norms” of daily life. I reached out to Lois Miller-Martone, the coordinator of Bridges out of Poverty and Getting Ahead Programs, to see if I could help. I offered to hold a meeting and present “Getting Back to Work”. In this presentation, people will learn about tools they can use to get back into the workforce which will help rebuild self-esteem and self-worth. Lois was excited to be able to offer additional help to class members.

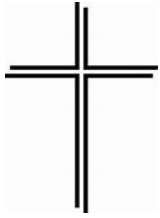
In “Getting Back to Work”, attendees learned:

- Ways to search for a job
- How to prepare a resume and cover letter
- Applying for jobs
- Interviewing
- How to explain gaps in employment
- And all the interpersonal things that go along with this journey-challenges, obstacles, intimidation, self-doubt, and fear

The individuals that attended this meeting were so grateful for the information and tips that I shared with them. We need to remember that people need help, our help. They need encouraged. Encouraging someone, having faith in them, is like charging a battery. Believe in someone and they become personally charged, energized. And when you energize someone, you yourself become energized.

How about you. How can you re-energize someone and charge their battery?

Beck Dougherty



June 2020



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Deacon on Call: Dave Adams 992-8428
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Email trinitypres04@gmail.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Adult Study 10am	4 Adult Study 7pm	5	6 Parish Mtg. 10am
7 Communion Worship 10:30am Congregational Mtg. Following Worship	8	9	10 Adult Study 10am Property & Finance Mtg. 6:30pm	11 Adult Study 7pm	12	13
14 Flag Day 2¢ A Meal Collection Worship 10:30am	15 MRC Mtg. 6:30pm	16	17 Adult Study 10am Community Outreach 6pm Session 7pm	18 Adult Study 7pm	19	20 First Day of Summer
21 Happy Father'sDay! Worship 10:30am	22	23	24 Adult Study 10am	25 Adult Study 7pm	26	27
28 Worship 10:30am	29	30				