

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

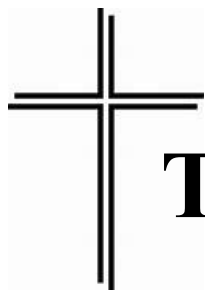
**MAY 2023
NEWSLETTER**



“When he had said this, as they
were watching, he was lifted up,
and a cloud took him out of their
sight. “

Acts 1:9





Trinity Times



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I remember as a young boy camping with my Boy Scout Troop in many tents and cabins. We cooked our meals on fires and used those fires to keep warm in the winter months. Every morning we had to stir the fire and add more wood to cook our breakfast or heat the room. The fire would inevitably die down and we would have to blow air on the coals, add more wood and perhaps even use a match to re-light the fire. We also had many challenges trying to do this. Trying to light a fire in the rain, or having damp wood, or having expired matches led to many a cold and foodless day.

If you can imagine trying to stir up a fire, you can understand the disciples from the Walk to Emmaus, when they describe walking with Jesus as a burning fire, they said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' Jesus may have not been reviving a fire to cook breakfast or heat a tent or cabin, but Jesus most certainly was stirring up the flames of faith and understanding in the disciples' hearts. Through his talking and explaining the scriptures, Jesus blew fresh air, added more wood, and used a fresh match to bring their faith burning strong in their hearts.

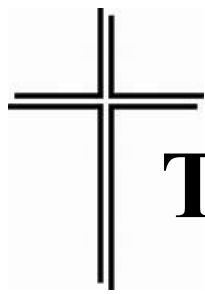
Can he not do the same to you, to us? Jesus is still talking to human hearts and explaining the Scriptures through the Holy Spirit that lives in our hearts. Jesus is still blowing fresh air, adding more wood, and using a lighter to bring our faith to life, burning strong in our hearts. Even in times of difficulty, Jesus is capable of sustaining and reviving our faith when it goes out. Cleopas and the other disciple had no faith and understanding on that first Easter Sunday, we have days and seasons where we have no faith or understanding, but Jesus talks and explains and through his Word, and they believe and so do we.

But while Jesus' Word is what revives our faith to burn brightly, the disciples only really recognize Jesus in the breaking of bread. In an Instant Replay of the Last Supper, when he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. The same is with us. We can listen and explain the Word of God in Scripture and Sermon and find our hearts afire, but only when we gather around the Lord's Table to participate in the Lord's Supper do we recognize Jesus. The disciples burned with the Word and recognized through the Breaking of Bread; the same lies with us. Our hearts burn with the Word, but we recognize Jesus only through the Lord's Supper.

Is your faith burning? Is your heart recognizing? Most certainly, we will have moments and seasons where the answer is yes and yes. But we also have days and times where the answer is uncertain, or even no. The good news of the Gospel is that Jesus bears the responsibility for the fire in your heart. If He could light Cleopas and the Other disciple, he can light yours. Even when the rain of trial soaks your heart, Jesus can blow fresh air and re-kindle your faith. Even when your heart is frozen and hard from trauma and brokenness, Jesus can melt and soften your heart to re-fuel your faith. Even when sin and death has extinguished the spark of faith, Jesus gives you his heart and believes for and instead of you; and your faith is re-lit. Jesus can and does revive your faith, and reveals Himself to you.

Friends, the only reason the church in every time and place comes to faith in God is through the saving work of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Through Word and Table, The Spirit of Jesus Christ blows, fuels, and sparks any human heart to faith and understanding in God. In your faith is waning, if your understanding and recognition is lacking, then hear and remember that the Spirit of Jesus can take cold and dead hearts and bring them to faith and understanding. So once again hear the good news of the Easter Message and believe in God, believe in Jesus Christ. Through the Spirit, you can burn in faith for God. Through the Spirit, you can burn in faith and recognize Jesus. Now burn with faith and see. Amen.

In Christ,
Rev. Mark



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2023 per capita is \$36.50

REPORT FROM SESSION

Report from Session

On Wednesday April 19th Session met. The normal business was carried out, including:

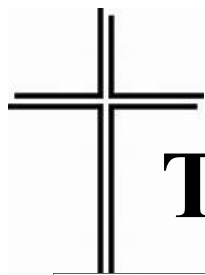
- Approval of minutes of March session meeting and an e-mail votes. Session approved renewing our lawn care contract with Richardsons. We also approved the use of our back parking lot to the contractor re-surfacing Prospect Road to park their equipment. They will add grindings to the lot.
- Letters of thanks to our congregation from Faith Lutheran Food Pantry, the Presbyterian Mission Agency for our contributions, and from Joyce Shellhammer for our hospitality during the Lenten suppers.
- A letter of resignation of Pat Strock from the Board of Deacons was accepted with deep regrets.
- Approval of minister's report which included:
 - ◊ A reminder that worship services during May will begin at 9:30.
 - ◊ Rev. Mong proposed a joint summer schedule for worship. June and August to worship at East Side and July and September worship at Trinity. Services to begin at 10:00. Session approved the schedule.
 - ◊ Bible Studies are Wednesday at 10 at East Side and Thursday at 7 at Trinity.
 - ◊ Rev. Mark listed his calls and visits.
 - ◊ There will be a Town Hall Meeting on May 3rd at 6:30.
 - ◊ While Rev. Mong is on vacation, worship will be led by Joyce Shellhammer on June 11th and 25th and Rev. John Gehring-Anders on July 2nd.
 - ◊ For his continued education, Rev. Mong has enlisted personal coaching services for 6 sessions.
 - ◊ Rev. Mong assisted Joyce Shellhammer with Lenten Services.
 - ◊ 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.



Committee reports were approved and included:

- Worship & Music: April Ushers (the Fassett family) and liturgist (TBA) were named.
- 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.
 - Lenten suppers were enjoyed by all.
- Community Outreach:
 - Trinity continues to generously give food to the Faith Lutheran Food Pantry.
 - There will be our annual baby shower on May 21 st with gifts to HIP program at GO Community Development.
 - 35 Water jugs and \$361 were taken to Austinburg Congregational Church to be delivered to the Congregational Church in East Palestine.
- Property and Finance:
 - Minutes from their meeting were distributed.
 - Session approved the installation of a hand rail in the center of the steps to the chancel area.
- Emergency and Safety: Panic buttons have been ordered and should be installed when the company is done with all the new builds of hotels.
- Deacons: Barb Beatty was thanked for attending and reported that the deacons distributed flowers and candy to shut-ins at Easter time.

Mary Belding, Clerk of Session



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REPORT FROM COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community Outreach met Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Rev. Mong on behalf of Trinity delivered 35 gallon jugs of water and \$361.00 to Austinburg Church of Christ for the residents of East Palestine Ohio.

Trinity donated \$1,000.00 to the R.A.M. Clinic as well as some members volunteering during this worthwhile event. Trinity Presbyterian Church was proudly modeled on the event t-shirts!



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 from the Presbyterian Mission Catalog:

Garden Well(s) - \$50 share/\$1500.00 for a well

Latrine(s) - \$50 share/\$350 latrine

Jerry Can(s) - \$25

Sewing Machine(s) - \$50

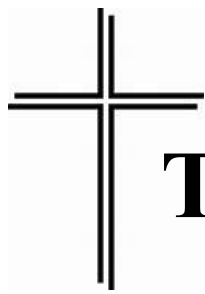
We will have an update of our grand total and final purchases from the Presbyterian Mission Catalog next month!

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. More information to follow as the information is collected.

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



Trinity Times

THE EDEN PROJECT

Our motto is "Growing Food, Growing Faith".

Spring is on its way!!!

You are welcome to join us in the garden. Help us plan and look forward to spending some time in the garden.

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



REPORT FROM TRINITY SCRIP FUND

Report March 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.

Beginning balance 3/01/23 \$ 1,094.86

Income from sales : Mar \$ 2,675.00

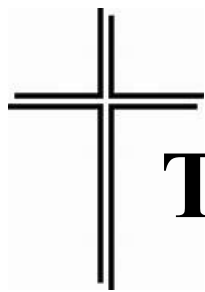
Cost of cards Mar \$ 2,485.33

Shipping Mar \$ 21.00

Ending balance Mar 31, 2023 \$ 1,263.53

Thanks to all who support this mission.

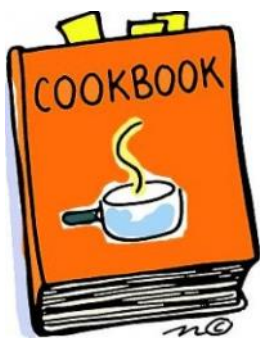




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THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone that was involved in the Lenten Supper series. Thank you to everyone who cooked the delicious soup, decorated the fellowship hall, and attended the service. Special thanks to Rev. Mark Mong and Pastor Joyce Shellhammer who led the services. Thank you to all that participated and helped make it a success. Ruth Allen, Chair Fellowship Committee



CHURCH COOKBOOK

The Fellowship Committee is putting together a church cookbook with any recipes the congregation wishes to submit. If you have any that you would like to submit, please give them to Ruth Allen by May 31st, who is chair of the committee. Please feel free to submit as many as you would like. If anyone would like to contribute to the style, dividers, or format, the information is in the kitchen. Please write your comments on the sheet.

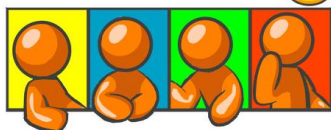
BIBLE STUDIES CONTINUE

Our Wednesday Morning Bible Study continues at 10am. We have begun studying the Book of the Hebrews. Everyone is welcome to join.

Our Thursday evening Bible Study will resume on Thursday, April 13th at 7pm. Now would be a great time to join us as we begin the Book of Numbers.



Town Hall Meeting



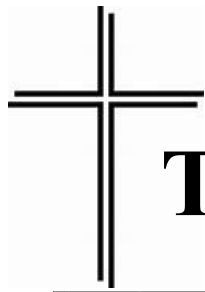
TOWN HALL MEETING

We will be having another Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, May 3rd at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. The saints of East Side will be joining us as we discern together what is our joint calling and how we can faithfully answer that call.

PRAYER LIST

Beverly Cigani, Marion Shipman, Mike and Marj Kenny, Pete and Fran Wilson, Lynda Bennet, Katie Ketterer, Josh Leiten, Genny Wallace, Kerrie Olzak, Peggy Kather, Ed Strock, Marj Landfried, Ruth Allen, Dale Fassett, Jennifer Coutts, Connie Arthur





Trinity Times



SUNDAY

MAY 21, 2023

DURING

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

FOR: G.O. MINISTRIES

H.I.P PROGRAM

Please bring a gift to help in caring for babies such as

DIAPERS (Not newborn) & WIPES

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:

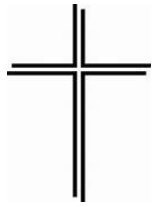
June 2023—10am at Eastside

July 2023— 10am at Trinity

August 2023—10am at Eastside

September 2023—10am at Trinity





May 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	2 Knitting Group - East Side 10-12 noon Al-Anon 7 pm	3 Town Hall 6:30 pm	4 Bible Study 7pm Trinity	5	6 Lions Club Breakfast 9am-12 noon Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
7 Face-Face Worship 9:30 am Video Worship Communion Open Arms Sobriety-7 pm	8	9 Romeos 9 am Debs Diner Al-Anon 7 pm	10 Bible Study 10 am East Side Property and Finance 6:00 pm Cardmaking 6:30 pm Clean and Free 7 pm	11 Brown Bag Lunch packing 10 am Bible Study 7pm Trinity	12 Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	13 Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
14 <i>Mother's Day</i> 2¢ A Meal Collection Face-Face Worship 9:30 am Video Worship Open Arms Sobriety-7 pm	15 Cardmaking 6:30 pm	16 Knitting Group - East Side 10-12 noon Trinity Book Group Al-Anon 7 pm	17 Bible Study 10 am East Side Session 6:00 pm Clean and Free 7 pm	18 Bible Study 7pm Trinity	19 Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	20 Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
21 Face-Face Worship 9:30 am Video Worship Baby Shower Open Arms Sobriety-7 pm	22	23 East Side 10-12 noon Trinity Book Group Al-Anon 7 pm	24 Bible Study 10am East Side Clean and Free 7 pm	25 Bible Study 7pm Trinity	26 Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	27 Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
28 Pentecost Face-Face Worship 9:30 am Video Worship Open Arms Sobriety-7 pm	29	30 Al-Anon 7 pm	31 Bible Study 10 am East Side Clean and Free 7 pm		<u>Future Worship</u> June and August 10:00 AM at East Side July and September 10:00 AM at Trinity	