

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

MAY 2024

NEWSLETTER



“And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.” Acts 2:2





Ashtabula Times



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am not afraid of heights. But, I am afraid of heights when dangling by a harness attached to a zip-line. Needless to say, as a youth worker, I found myself in such a position. With a helmet on my head and a safety harness wrapped around me, I found myself dangling from a wire and jumping out into oblivion. I of course knew that the zip-line and harness were safe, but in my mind and heart jumping off a perfectly good platform was still a risky maneuver. With heart and stomach in hand I jumped off... And the rope and harness caught me and I was able to enjoy the ride on the zip-line.

Faith involves a similar risk. In our minds and hearts, to surrender and give ourselves over to God is still a risky maneuver. Oh we know that God is gracious and kind and loving and safe, much like I knew the rope and harness were safe. But we know that submitting to God is still a risky maneuver, because in our minds we can imagine jumping off into God, and God not being there to catch us.

In the story of Elijah and the widow, the widow also faces great risk. She has only a little flour and a little oil, and Elijah asks for a morsel of food. What should she do? Take the risk that there will be enough as God says through Elijah? Or not take the risk and keep the food for herself and her son. The widow's choice is faith or control; risk or safety? She takes the risk and gives what little she has to Elijah and God comes through as God promised, the jars of flour and oil never run out.

Our faith then in God involves great risks on our part if we truly intend to surrender ourselves and our lives unto the gracious care of Almighty God. Our faith involves great danger when we hand over the little resources we have into the hands of God. Faith places our lives in great jeopardy, when we give over everything we do or do not have into the control of God.

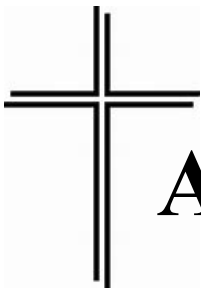
Is it no wonder then that we hesitate to do so? This is where the questions start to creep into our thoughts. Our imaginations begin to run wild, imagining situation after situation where instead of God fulfilling his promises to us, we imagine scarcity and drought. When we begin to wonder about the "What if's" in life, this is the moment when we hesitate to believe in God, because the risks are more palpable than the possible rewards. This is the moment when we become fearful instead of faithful.

This is also the moment that Jesus Christ begins to work on us. The good news of the gospel is that our faith has the help of Jesus through the Holy Spirit. It is precisely when we are at our weakest, that he is at our strongest. When our faith begins to waver, his faith takes over and supports ours. He surrounds us and supports us when we falter and teeter on the edge of doubts and control. He approaches us when we fail to approach God. He comes near when we are overwhelmed by the dangers and risks of faith.

So my friends, our faith has help; help to overcome the risks. Since we have such help, let us then dare to take a chance on God and surrender ourselves to God and to God's will. Let us take the risk and jump, because he after all promised to catch. All together on the count of 3:

1, 2, 3... you said it!

In Christ,
Rev. Mark



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2024 per capita is \$38.00

REPORT FROM TRINITY'S SESSION

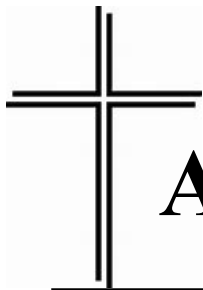
On Wednesday April 17th Session met and the normal business was carried out, including:

- Approval of minutes of March Session meeting. .
- Approval of the financial reports.
- The clerk's report included:
 - ◊ Thank You note from Ashtabula Area City Schools for our contribution to the theater department. The note is posted in Fellowship Hall.
- Approval of minister's report which included:
 - ◊ Rev. Mark listed his calls and visits.
 - ◊ Rev. Mong has been serving as Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery. He serves on the Moderators Committee, the Vision Task Fund and the Coordinating Cabinet. Coordinating Cabinet of the Presbytery.
 - ◊ There will be an officer training and discernment session at Trinity on Saturday April 27th.
 - ◊ There will be a Town Hall meeting on May 1st at 6:30 at East Side to consider how the three Ashtabula Presbyterian churches can move forward with meshing.
 - ◊ There will be a service on June 9th at 4:00pm for the installation of Rev. Mong at East Side. A diner will follow the service.
 - ◊ Session approved vacation time for Rev. Mong July 1-14.



Committee reports were approved and included:

- Worship & Music:
 - ◊ May worship will be at Eastside.
 - ◊ Session approved the following 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)
 - ◊ There will be shared ministry opportunities
 - ◊ First Pres members will be invited to attend the weekly Bible studies
 - ◊ First Pres will host a potluck following worship on Sunday June 2nd
- Property and Finance:
 - ◊ The committee now meets on the third Wednesday at 6:00
 - ◊ Session agreed that our extra lapel microphone can be used by Rev. Mark at East Side.
 - ◊ The committee is gathering quotes for replacing the sheds and garage.
- Community Outreach:
 - ◊ The Baby Shower for HIP is Sunday April 21st
 - ◊ Ashtabula City Clean-up Day is Saturday April 20th. We will meet at 9:00.
 - ◊ There will be a gathering of women at The Old Mill Winery April 24th at 5pm.
 - ◊ In May we will sponsor a collection for spices for GO's kitchen.
 - ◊ In June there will be a fundraiser for the Sheriff's Dept K9 Unit.



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REPORT FROM TRINITY'S SESSION (continued)

- Deacons: Pauline Headman was thanked for attending.
- Emergency and Safety:
 - ◊ Research is being done concerning defibrillators.
- 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

POT LUCK



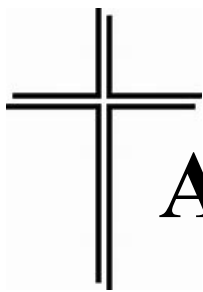
First Presbyterian, Ashtabula will host a Potluck following worship on Sunday, June 2nd to celebrate the new meshed relationship of the three city churches. During the potluck the three congregations will do something mission related or discuss opportunities for shared mission during the summer months.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

REPORT FROM EASTSIDE'S SESSION

1. Committee on Ministry approved the Installation of Mark Mong as Installed Pastor of East Side. Installation will be June 9, 2024, at 4:00 pm with a dinner to follow. Sharon Core will do the sermon.
2. First Presbyterian Church has agreed to a meshed worship with East Side and Trinity for June, July, and August with First Presbyterian in June, East Side in July, and Trinity in August.
3. Town Hall Meeting will be May 1st at East Side at 6:30 pm.
4. Approved the Rummage Sale.
5. Approved The Concerts in the Park concession.
6. New Sign has been installed and is operational.
7. Outreach Committee has moved to donate 40% of the Pentecost Offering to Stacy's House and the Lenten Supper donations to be donated to Trinity's Blessing Box to buy food.
8. Ladies Night will be April 24th at the Old Mill Winery at 5:00.



Cathy Burnham, Clerk of Session



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EASTSIDE'S MEETING SCHEDULE

Combined Choir—Every Sunday, 9am at East Side in May

Session—Monday, May 20th, 6:30pm

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

Outreach—May 19th following Worship

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

Worship and Music—May 13th at 6:30pm



EASTSIDE'S BIRTHDAYS

Liz Mong—1st

Doris Smith-9th

Rosalind Woodburn-19th



EASTSIDE'S ANNIVERSARIES

Bob & Sara Wetzel—14th

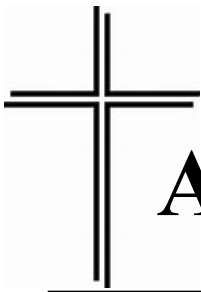
TOWN HALL

All three Ashtabula City Churches will be meeting on Wednesday, May 1st at 6:30pm in Eastside'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.



PRAYER LIST

Genny Wallace, Gerry Giangola, Greg Elliot, Family of Esther Northrup, Elvie, Ken McCool, Jan, Family of Walt Barnes, Family of Tina Maunus, Jan Paananen, Family of Peg Ladu, Jerry Jeffries, and Mary Gill



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JOINT COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Blessings and Generosity of our Churches continue to flow...

Lenten Supper Donations at Trinity totaled \$556.00

Presbytery Giving Collection totaled \$600.00

Grand Total \$1156.00 will be used to purchase from the Presbytery Mission Catalogs.



APRIL

April 20, 2024, we participated in Ashtabula City Clean up.



April 21, 2024, hosted a baby shower for G.O. Ministries during fellowship hour at Trinity.

April 24, 2024, Women's Wine night at Old Mill Winery in Geneva, sign up in Fellowship Hall

Mission projects moving forward:

MAY

Spice Drive Collection for G.O. Ministries.

Make a cash donation towards the purchase of bulk spices

And/or bring in white or brown sugar



Donations for the Ashtabula K-9 Unit

Tentative demonstration after worship at First Presbyterian on June 9, 2024

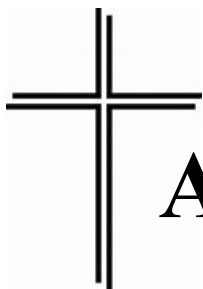


Thanks for all you continue to do for our Community...

Joint Outreach Committee

EAST SIDE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

1. Thank You's were received from Faith Lutheran Food Pantry and Presbyterian Giving for donations received.
2. Nancy Sabo kindly donated a Fire Safety Blanket for our kitchen.
3. The \$500 donation to The Warming Center will not be made at this time due to the closing and uncertainty of the future.
4. The 40% of the Pentecost Offering that remains local will be donated to Stacy's House.
5. Donations collected at the Lenten Suppers will be given to Trinity to help supply items needed for the Blessing Box.



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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

MINISTERIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE



This committee exists as a liaison between the congregants of Trinity and Rev. Mong.

In response to some questions, use of the “one call” program requires that a family member requests any notifications or prayer requests for a family member directly to Rev. Mong.

Rev. Mong gives Session a monthly report of his calls and visits.

Rev. Mark can be reached anytime by calling his cell phone at 937.661.4580. This is the best way to contact him since he is between two offices weekly. Anyone who would like individual pastoral care can call him.

Please talk to us if you have any questions or comments concerning how Trinity (with the help of Rev. Mong) is progressing in working toward “being church”.

Peace and Blessings, Mary Belding, Pam Bloom, Beth Dougherty, Dale Fassett