

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

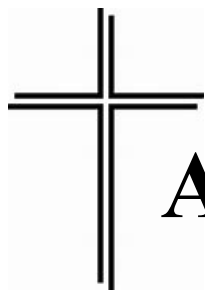
MAY 2025
NEWSLETTER



“The gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and designated Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Romans 1:3-4





Ashtabula Times

SYNOD OF THE COVENANT

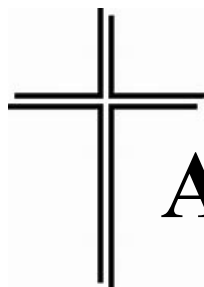
DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING!! Apply by May 15th!

- Are you called to preach to Good News? Do you want to improve your preaching skills?
- The Cultivating the Gift of Preaching Initiative (CGPI), a ministry Synod of the Covenant for the training emergent “lay” preachers, still has openings for the 2025-2026 program year.
- There are lots more details about CGPI on the Synod webpage, as well as the application.

But here are the basics:

- CGPI is an 18-month, cohort model program (we are currently recruiting for the second year which begins in June 2025 and runs to November 2026).
- Participants meet monthly online (for roughly two hours) with a cohort of 5-8 participants and a mentor (an experienced Teaching Elder from the Synod with extensive experience regularly preaching in a congregational setting).
- The program begins with a 5 day (Thursday evening – Monday morning) conference at Alma College in Alma, MI. **This year that conference is June 12-16.**
- There are four in-person meetings throughout the program, twice with everyone in CGPI at the Alma Conference each June, and twice with just your cohort.
- The cost of the program is \$1,250; \$250 to be paid by the individual and \$1000 by your home church and/or presbytery. Scholarships are available as well as payment plans for the churches. The actual total cost is \$11,000 per participant, the grant pays for the remainder. All travel and housing expenses, books, etc. are paid for by the grant.
- The emphasis of the program is on preaching. Participants will read and discuss various preaching styles and formats, principals of biblical interpretation, the basics of Reformed theology, as well as practice public speaking, reading scripture, and of course delivering sermons.

Applications are due by May 15th.



Ashtabula Times

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgical Day</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Anthem</u>
5/4/2025	3rd Sunday of Easter	Trinity	3 Church Choir
5/11/2025	4th Sunday of Easter	Trinity	3 Church Choir
5/18/2025	5th Sunday of Easter	Trinity	3 Church Choir
5/25/2025	6th Sunday of Easter	Trinity	3 Church Choir



All Services are at
10am

TRINITY NOTICES

Just a reminder cook books are still available and make great gifts. If interested see Ruth Allen or Kathy Fassett

Kathy is trying to update the church directory, If you have moved or changed your Phone Numbers please contact Kathy Fassett or leave a message at 440-993-7111. Correct address will ensure you get the newsletter.

SHINING A LIGHT ON EDUCATORS

Free Admission – Door Prizes
Saturday May 17, 2025 10:00 AM



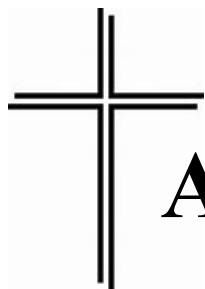
Jefferson High School Auditorium
doors open 9:30 AM

Guest Speaker
Danita Harris from Channel 3 WKYC

FOR EDUCATORS: Parents/Family, School Staffs, Church Staffs, Librarians, and Childcare Workers. Please Come!

Hosted by Delta Kappa Gamma- International Education
Honorary, Ashtabula County Chapter Alpha Alpha





Ashtabula Times

JOINT COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our next meeting is currently scheduled for June 8, 2025.

MISSION RESULTS FOR APRIL 2025:

One Great Hour of Sharing contributions are being compiled. Thank you for your contributions.



2025 AGENDA

Please retain so you can choose how you wish to share your blessings with these mission projects throughout the year.

May 4th H.I.P. Baby Shower following worship. Thank you for all donations given and please join us to see all that has been donated at the Baby Shower, May 4th.
PENTECOST OFFERING for Presbyterian Church USA (Children at Risk- Youth-Young Adults) will be received during May and through June 8th . Forty-percent (40%) of collection will be donated to Stacy's House, a local mission.

MAY 17: ASHTABULA CITY CLEAN UP DAY 8:30-11:30 A.M. MEET AT TRINITY DONUTS PROVIDED.



June: June 8th will be the final day of collecting the Pentecost Offering.

July: SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION will be ongoing throughout the month.

August:

September: Raffle Baskets for HOMESAFE will be created by the committee.
PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING (Peacemaking and Reconciliation) for PCUSA begins. Envelopes will be in the pews. The 25% kept locally will be donated to HOMESAFE.

October: PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING final collection date is October 8.
CATHOLIC CHARITIES BLANKET AND LINEN COLLECTION begins.



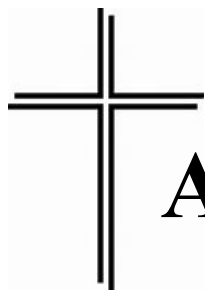
November: CATHOLIC CHARITIES BLANKET AND LINEN COLLECTION continues.
ADOPTION OF CHILDREN FOR CHRISTMAS

December: CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING
HAT, GLOVE AND MITTEN TREE



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program)
For information visit ashtabulagiveback.org or contact Stephanie Blessing – Americore – 440-670-9125 to volunteer
- G.O. Ministries
- Breakfast at First Baptist Church M-F – Feeding homeless 8:30-9:30 a.m.



Ashtabula Times

MEETING SCHEDULE

Town Hall Meeting—Wednesday, May 7th, 6:30pm at Trinity

Tri-Church Lunch Packing—Thursday, May 8th 10am at Trinity

Joint Ministerial Relations Committee—Tuesday, May 13th, 6:30pm at Trinity

ROMEOs—Tuesday, May 13th, 9am at Deb's Diner

East Side Session—Monday, May 19th, 6:30pm at East Side

Trinity Property/Finance—Wednesday, May 21st, 6pm at Trinity

Trinity Session—Wednesday, May 21st, 7pm at Trinity

Deacons—Sunday, May 25th, after worship at Trinity



EASTSIDE'S BIRTHDAYS

May 12th—Edie Makynen

May 20th—Pat Ford



EASTSIDE'S ANNIVERSARIES

No Anniversaries

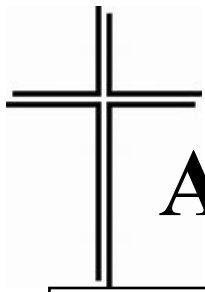
ASHTABULA COUNTY CHORAL MUSIC SOCIETY

- May 17th-The Ashtabula County Choral Hall of Fame Banquet/Awards. 5:30 pm at the Ashtabula Elks Club. 2025 Inductees are: Rebecca Levering, Joan Andrews, Gary Yost and Ellen Jacobs. See Ellen May 4th if you would like to attend. Tickets: \$50.
- May 18th: ACCMS Chorale Concert "Strength in Unity", 4pm at St Peter's Episcopal Church, Ashtabula. A program of uplifting music. Free, Donations appreciated!



PRAYER LIST

Genny Wallace, Berniece Boggs, Jim & Rose Booth, Jim Johnston, Courtney Wetzel, Bob Meyers, Jack Hogle, and Joanna Fisher



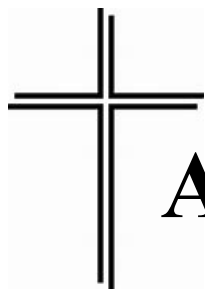
Ashtabula Times

REPORT FROM EAST SIDE'S SESSION

- The meeting opened with prayer.
- The Minutes were reviewed and approved.
- The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved.
- Pastor's Report:
 1. Next Presbytery meeting will be June 2, 2025, Hybrid. This will be Mark's last meeting as Moderator.
 2. Reviewed Mark's visitations with shut ins.
 3. Town Hall Meeting is May 7, 2025, at 6:30 pm, Trinity Presbyterian Church.
 4. Bible Studies are resuming this week. Wednesday at 10:00 AM and Thursday at 7:00 PM at Trinity.
- Clerk's Report:
 1. At the Town Hall Meeting on March 23, 2025, both Trinity and East Side congregations voted to use Trinity as our location of worship and no longer rotate between East Side any Trinity.
 2. At the Congregational Meeting on April 13, 2025, we voted to merge with Trinity.
- Buildings and Grounds:
 1. The manse is now rented. The new tenants are Brian and Viola Jones.
 2. We have approved a quote for roof replacement for the church.
- Outreach:
 1. Baby Shower will be the first Sunday in May.
- Worship and Music:
 1. Ushers and Liturgists are scheduled for May.
 2. Carnations will be given to the ladies on Mother's Day.
- The meeting closed with prayer.



Cathy Burnham, Clerk of Session



Ashtabula Times



2025 per capita is \$40.00

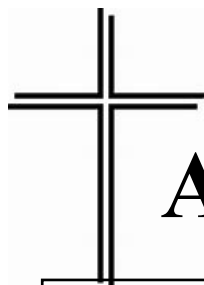
REPORT FROM TRINITY'S SESSION

Session met April 16th and the normal business was carried out including:

- Approval of minutes from February session meeting, the April 6th called session meeting, and the April 13th called congregational meeting.
- The resignation from session of Barb Jeffries was accepted with regrets.
- The Minister's report included:
 - ◊ A spreadsheet of his calls and visits.
- Committee reports
 - ◊ Community Outreach
 - ♦ May 17th city cleanup. We will clean up Samuel Ave.
 - ◊ Property and Finance:
 - ♦ A motion was approved to have Richardson's do weed, trim, and mulch around the sanctuary.
 - ♦ A motion was approved to contract with Richardson's for lawn care.
 - ♦ The HVAC project is progressing.
 - ◊ Fellowship
 - ♦ There were 77 in attendance at the March Town Hall meeting. Left-overs were delivered to folks at Cornelius Park, for which they were very appreciative.
 - ♦ Lenten suppers were well attended. Free will offering from them was \$393.
 - ♦ Cookbook sales have totaled 110 with a profit of \$863.75.



Mary Belding, Clerk



Ashtabula Times



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are entering that season of year where flower beds and gardens are being cleaned out, planted and mulched for another season of growth. We remove last year's leaves that have blown in and last year's branches that have fallen off into our yards in bags that go off to the dump. We plant this year's annuals and spread around mulch. Mulch, the leaves, branches and plants from previous seasons which break down and give nutrients and protection to this year's growth. The plants from previous seasons that give life to another season in the cycle of life.

Just as it is with mulch, so too with Jesus Christ. Jesus understood himself as the mulch which dies to give life to others, *truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.* His death was to be the means of God bringing God's creation back from exile and gathering all things together to re-make them. Mulch is fertilizer for flower beds and gardens. Jesus is fertilizer for Creation, to bring the people back to the covenant with God, to remove their sins of falling short and to resurrect them to Glory and Life.

With the momentous decisions made in April, we at Trinity and East Side, find ourselves in a resurrection moment. We are becoming new thanks to the work of God. Just as a gardener plants new plants for the season, we are the new planting of God. We are planting a new church, a new community formed, shaped and gathered by the Spirit of Jesus Christ. The good news of the Gospel is that while God has planted us as a new church, we are "mulched" by Jesus Himself. Fertilized with nutrients, lead by His will, we are the re-newed planting of God. Since Jesus was resurrected, we find ourselves being resurrected now, in a new beginning.

But with new beginnings come endings. We might be planted and shaped into something new, but we must say goodbye to Trinity and East Side. We are certainly prepared by God for the future, but we also must say goodbye to the past. This is a time of loss for both congregations and therefore a time of grief. Mulch is a fertilizer for the future but also a remainder of last year. This time of resurrection is also a time of dying. We must say good-bye to what was to embrace the new thing that is becoming. To honor and grieve the closing of two faith communities to celebrate and live into the planting of a new.

We seem to be called into a season of deep, spiritual work. While we can catch a glimpse of the new things God is doing, we must grieve and celebrate the wonderful things God has done. Just as we did deep work to reach this point in our community's journey, so must we continue the deep work while we begin the next. What must we say good-bye to? What stories need to be shared and remembered? What memories and learnings need to be lifted up and carried with us? All of this is the mulch of the past which gives life to the present and future. This is our dying work that must accompany our rising work.

My friends, we have come so far by the grace of Jesus' Spirit. Let us continue our Easter work of dying and rising as Jesus died and rose. Let us engage in our deep work of dying to Trinity and East Side, that we might rise to the (Insert New Church Name Here). So dig out the pictures to show off to the other church, write the stories to share with the new members, and remember the lessons you learned to teach to new brothers and sisters in God's family. But most importantly, let us begin our letting go of what was, to become and align into what is growing. We have been mulched by Christ, time for us to die and rise. Amen and thanks be to God.

In Christ, Rev. Mark