

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

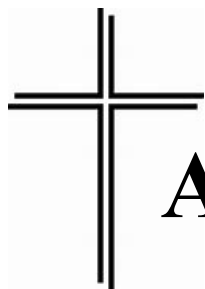
**NOVEMBER 2023
NEWSLETTER**



O give thanks to the LORD, for
he is good; for his steadfast
love endures for ever.

Psalm 107:1





Ashtabula Times

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As a boy, one of my chores this time of year was the harvesting of the garden and the various trees in the back yard. When my parents felt the produce was ripe, I was sent out with baskets to collect and harvest everything I was told to harvest. I dug up the potatoes and put them in a crock. I picked the apples and the tomatoes and put them in bushel baskets. I broke off the pea pods and placed them in a metal colander. When the time came to harvest, I was sent out with an empty container and told to get everything I could, while the time was right and the produce ripe.

Just as I was sent out to harvest by my parents, so too are we sent out to harvest by God. But while I was sent for vegetables and fruit, *the Lord of the harvest sends out laborers* into all his creation. Just as I was the only child at home to do the enormous task of harvesting a large garden and orchard, so too is God's *harvest plentiful but the laborers are few*. God sends us out not for the corn, but sends us out for lost children of God.

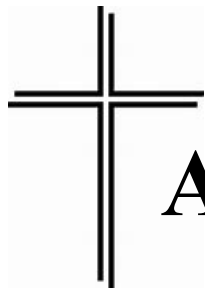
Are we all to go out or only some whose specific purpose is to do so? While this may or may not be the question on many Christian's hearts and minds, I wish not to answer it, but ask maybe a different question. Did Jesus go out for us **all**? Then why don't we **all** go out for Jesus? Jesus' obedience was not just to obey the will of his Father to go out, but Jesus' love was that he went out for everyone. Instead of some obnoxious rule of what is right or wrong for all Christians when it comes to mission, let us replace it with a knowledge of God who is mission incarnate in Christ Jesus. Since he came for us **all**, then let us **all** go out for him.

Are we to go out into our community or some other one? While this may or may not be yet another question on many hearts and minds, I again wish not to answer it, but ask maybe a different question. Did Jesus go only to Nazareth? Then why don't we go everywhere for Jesus? Jesus didn't just stay in his home town, he went to others as well. Instead of some rule of what is right or wrong for all Christians when it comes to their mission field, (if we have one at all), let us replace it with a knowledge of God whose field to harvest is all of creation. Since Jesus went into all creation, let us all go everywhere for him.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, while I share with you all no small amount of trepidation or anxiety when it comes to mission work, we all share the common purpose given to us in Jesus Christ, to be laborers sent out into the harvest field to collect the Lord of the Harvest's bounty. While I might want to hide behind the readymade excuse of "I am not called to go out," in Christ Jesus we see God coming to us all, so that we all might go out. While I might want to take shelter in the pretext of "I am not called to go there," in Christ Jesus we see God going every place we are, so that we might go everywhere he is. Therefore, let us not dwell in our apprehensions and hesitations about being sent out and being sent out where we do not want to go, let us dwell in Christ Jesus through faith and we will find ourselves being Children of God having already gone out.

In Christ,
Rev. Mark





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2023 per capita is \$36.50

REPORT FROM TRINITY'S SESSION

On Wednesday October 18th Session met. The normal business was carried out, including:

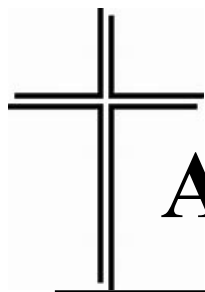
- Approval of minutes of September session meeting and recording of e-mail votes.
- Session approved use of the Fellowship Hall On December 2nd by Pat Strock, and use of the Sewing Room the third Tuesday bi-monthly beginning January 2024 by the Board of Homesafe.
- Approval of the financial reports.
- Approval of minister's report which included:
 - ◊ Bible Studies are Wednesday at 10 at East Side and Thursday at 7 at Trinity.
 - ◊ Rev. Mark listed his calls and visits.
 - ◊ For his continued education, Rev. Mong has enlisted personal coaching services.
 - ◊ Rev. Mong has been serving as Vice-Moderator, Moderator, and Chair of the Coordinating Cabinet of the Presbytery. He began as Vice-Moderator July 1st.
 - ◊ There will be a meeting on October 30th via zoom with attendees from the Presbytery to discuss the future of Presbyterianism in Ashtabula County
 - ◊ He will begin a New Officers Class for both Churches in December.
 - ◊ Session approved Rev. Mong's vacation request for December 25- January 1st.

Committee reports were approved and included:

- Worship & Music:
 - ◊ New members will join the church on October 29th. A coffee hour honoring them will follow the service.
 - ◊ November worship will be at East Side.
 - ◊ There will be a potluck Thanksgiving dinner at East Side following worship on November 12th.
 - ◊ Decorating the church (Trinity) for advent will be November 18th at 9:00am.
 - ◊ Poinsettias can be brought into the church on December 17th.
- Community Outreach:
 - ◊ There was a joint meeting of outreach committees, during which it was decided to gather blankets for Catholic Charities and we will adopt 12 children through Children and Family Services. Blanket dedication will be November 12th.
 - ◊ We continue to gather goods for Faith Lutheran Food Pantry. We continue to fill our Blessing Box for Thursdays.
- Property and Finance:
 - ◊ We are scheduled for tree trimming by Brobst Tree Service.
 - ◊ The committee is working on the budget for 2024.
- Deacons: Karen Reiter was thanked for attending.
 - ◊ They will meet on Nov. 1st at 3:30pm.
- Ministerial relations committee met with East Side's personnel committee for Rev. Mong's annual review. The Terms of Call for 2024 were discussed.
- The Nominating Committee presented a full slate of candidates.

Mary Belding, Clerk of Session





Ashtabula Times

NEEDED ITEMS FOR TRINITY'S BLESSING BOX

Water bottles

Individual size Orange juice, apple juice or drink pouches

Vegetables/fruit – Cans or plastic, individual size or larger with peel open lids

Pull Top assorted pasta, individual size or larger

Ramen Noodles or individual ramen noodle soups

Pull top soups

Pull top/individual portion size macaroni and cheese, tuna, chicken

Spam, deviled ham, beef stew

Individual packs of Jello and pudding

Individual bags of chips, pretzels, crackers

Personal hygiene products: tooth paste, deodorant, shampoo, tooth brushes, hand/baby wipes

Basically anything that a person can grab and go and easy open...



REPORT FROM TRINITY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Thank you to the Nominating Committee: Kathy Depp, Dale Fassett, and Mary Belding. Much time and prayer are required for the task of discerning those who may fill the positions of leadership in our church.

Trinity's Nominating Committee, after much time and effort, was able to present the following slate of candidates for election at the October 29, 2023 Congregational Meeting:



**Annual Church
ELECTIONS**

Elder: Class of 2026

Becca Stowell

Nancy Sabo

Barb Jeffries

Deacon: Class of 2024

David Adams

Jessie Smith

Deacon: Class of 2026

Pauline Headman

Louise Skarlinski

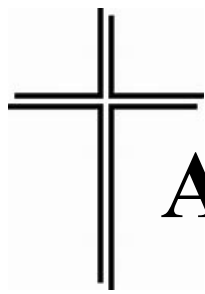
Blessings, Mary Belding, Chair

PAINTING SANTA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, AT 11:00 A.M., in Eastside's dining room, we will have a Christmas painting project. Members from Trinity, East Side and friends are welcome.

Rosemary Peck has wonderful wooden Santa heads for us to paint faces on. These can be mounted however you might choose. She will have all the necessary items for completing the project. We are asking for a \$5 donation to help cover the cost of the supplies. Please let Rosemary, Lynne Gollon or Edie Makynen know by November 26 if you plan to attend, so we can be sure there are enough supplies.





Ashtabula Times

THANKSGIVING DINNER

The East Side and Trinity congregations will celebrate together at the ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER at EAST SIDE CHURCH following the worship service on SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12. Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Rolls and Butter and Beverages (coffee, tea, water) will be provided. In addition, heavy duty disposable plates, cups, and utensils will be provided. If you prefer, you are welcome to bring your own table service. We ask that you bring a vegetable, salad, or dessert of your choice to share. There will be volunteers to carry your food downstairs to the dining room when you arrive for worship.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall, or you may call the East Side Church office (440-993-7546; Monday, Tuesday or Friday between 9 AM and 1 PM) to make your reservation. PLEASE make your reservation, including the number of people attending, by MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, so food amounts and seating can be planned accordingly.



REPORT FROM TRINITY SCRIP FUND

The Scrip Program provides gift cards!

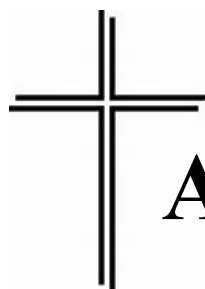
We have an inventory on-hand of cards for many of our local franchise stores and restaurants available Sunday morning and by special request. There are over 550 brands available. We have a list of all available cards. When cards are requested, they are ordered and delivered within a week.

Folks have used gift cards when purchasing large items such as lawn mowers or carpet through a big box store. **In November folks, giving us a long list, purchase gift cards for Christmas gifts.**

The company from which the cards are purchased gives a rebate to us on each card. You purchase a gift card - Trinity gets the rebate. The rebate that Trinity earns ranges from 1.5%-18%. The funds earned have been donated to the Trinity Operating budget at the end of the year. We will be looking at a way to share the funds with East Side. Thank you for supporting this mission.

Mary Belding and Dee Fassett





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EASTSIDE'S MEETING SCHEDULE

Joint Bell Choir—Sunday, November 12th & 26th, 2pm at Eastside

Combined Choir—Every Sunday, 9am at Eastside in November

Worship and Music—Monday, November 13th, 6:30pm

Session—Monday, November 20th, 6:30pm

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



EASTSIDE'S BIRTHDAYS

Joyce Edgren—November 22nd

Paula Raffenaud—November 29th



EASTSIDE'S ANNIVERSARIES

None

SHOES! SHOES! SHOES!

In an effort to assist First Presbyterian in a new endeavor, Eastside will collect shoes to help them in reaching a goal of 2500 pairs of shoes. The shoes will be sent to an agency that will sanitize and distribute them in Haiti where they are much needed. The box is located in the Eastside foyer. Shoes collected to date: 176 pairs.



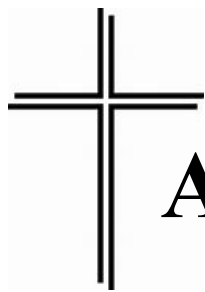
EASTSIDE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Eastside will have a congregational meeting following worship on December 3rd in the Trinity Sanctuary to elect officers for 2024, to amend our bylaws and to undesignated funds. All active members are requested to attend the meeting.



Lynda Bennet, John Lockhart, Brad, Arnold & Sandra Brown, George Sabo, Kevin Havens, Christina Horrigan, Camden Ketterer, Joan Melkie, George Voytek, John Pildner, Esther Northrup, Missy Tobias, the Hejduk Family, and Wes Breedlove

PRAYER LIST



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FALL AND WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



November 2023

November 5th		Eastside
November 12th	Eastside Thanksgiving Dinner	Eastside
November 19th		Eastside
November 26th		Eastside

December 2023

December 3rd	Eastside Congregational Meeting	Trinity
December 10th		Trinity
December 17th		Trinity
December 24th	Sunday Morning Service	Trinity
December 24th	Christmas Eve 7pm	Trinity
December 31st		Trinity

January 2024

January 7th		Eastside
January 14th		Eastside
January 21st		Eastside
January 28th	Eastside Congregational Meeting	Eastside

CHRISTMAS GIVING

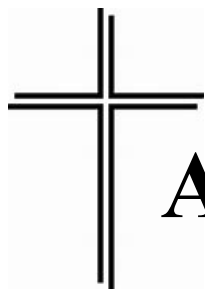
Envelopes have been placed in the Eastside pew racks for your annual donation to our Christmas Fund. Again, this year, the money will be used to purchase grocery store gift cards to be distributed by Kids Only to families that are most in need. The cards will be purchased through the gift card fund raiser program at Trinity Presbyterian Church. These contributions need to be made by Sunday, December 10, to allow for purchase and distribution before Christmas.



The envelopes are also for contributions toward postage for the Shoe Box ministry. When making your gift, just circle on the envelope which fund you want your gift to go to.

Thank you in advance for supporting the missions that spread God's love to the less fortunate in our community.

IF WE EACH DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!!



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JOINT COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community Outreach met jointly after worship service Sunday, October 15, 2023.



We are collecting linens and blankets for Catholic Charities for the months of October and November. The letter from Catholic Charities specifically requested the following items:

Twin, double, queen size blankets
Twin, double, queen size linens
Crib size blankets and linens

The School Supply collection at East Side has been completed with items being donated to Kids Only for distribution on an "as needed" basis.

The Blessing Box located at Trinity is being utilized by the neighborhood and more items will be purchased to refill. This box is filled specifically on Thursdays when there is no available free lunch in the immediate area. We have placed a bin in the back of the Sanctuary with a list of suggested items if you would like to help keep the blessings flowing!



We have a Christmas Giving committee that will be organizing the joint Christmas missions. We currently have committed to adopting 12 foster children via Children Services. The Christmas lists from these children will be available sometime after the first of November at which time we will create gift tags with items requested. These items should be new and unwrapped.

Last but not least....Another Ladies Winery Night!!

Wednesday, November 29th at 4:00 p.m. at Old Mill Winery, Geneva

You do not need to be a committee member (but you can be!!) to attend. Please let Joyce Kren know if you would like to come out so she can give the winery a head count prior to November 29th.



Our next meeting will be November 19th after Worship.

Our Next Mission Subcommittee meeting will be November 5th after worship.