

**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**1342 PROSPECT ROAD**  
**ASHTABULA OH 44004**  
**[www.trinityashtabula.org](http://www.trinityashtabula.org)**

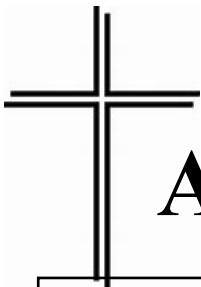
**OCTOBER 2024**  
**NEWSLETTER**



“For as often as you eat this bread and drink  
the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until  
he comes. ”

1 Corinthians 11:26





# Ashtabula Times



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Many people have campers in my neighborhood. Whether they enjoy parking their campers in a campground for a summer or an evening. The Winnebago transports people and their possessions from place to place. Going to see the Grand Canyon? Your camper can take you there and cook your meals, keep you cool and wash the dirt and sweat off. But what happens when you purchase a Winnebago and park it on your driveway and never use it? The camper becomes a status symbol or perhaps even something to brag about: my camper is bigger and better than yours. The point of a camper is to travel and deliver people and possessions to their destination. When you buy it to show off, something needs to change.

Just as it can be with campers parked in driveways instead of campgrounds, so too is it with Churches or Temples. The Temple of Herod was meant to be a vehicle for connecting with God by prayer. Every symbol from the Exodus, the law and the sacrifices, were meant to be the vehicle for delivering the people to God and God to the people. A Winnebago is a vehicle that can get someone from Ohio to California, the Temple was the vehicle to get the people to God, through prayer. The Temple was not god, but a vehicle or a symbol to transport the people to God, to close the distance between Heaven and Earth, from Creator to creature.

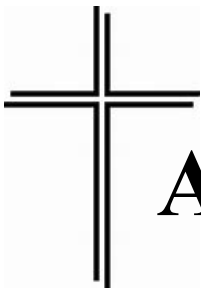
The great dilemma for Jesus was the purpose of the Temple to be the vehicle for faithfulness and covenant between God and Creation and finding the temple to be for a different purpose. "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations." But you have made it a den of robbers.' The point of a Winnebago is to be a vehicle for transportation, not to sit as an object of pride in the driveway. The point of the Temple is to be a vehicle for transportation to God, not to sit as an object of pride and greed. The people were to connect with God in the building, not to stare at the building and earn a fortune. Instead of using the temple, they park it in the driveway and to brag to the neighbors and to fleece a fortune.

Now we can understand why Jesus cleaned house. The point of the Temple buildings was to be a vehicle moving the people to God and Jesus reinstates or rededicates the building to that purpose. Instead of being used unfaithfully, Jesus cleans the temple to be faithful to why God created it in the first place. Not to park the vehicle in the driveway, but to be a vehicle moving the people to God. To be a house of prayer connecting with God inside the covenant, not to be a house of thievery, connecting the leaders with mammon or money inside greed.

What then is the purpose of our buildings? To be a vehicle moving us to God, or to be a vehicle parked in the driveway to brag about to our neighbors, or to be a source of income increasing our cash flow. We need a building, but that building needs to serve God's purpose and serve our needs as a community. We need a space to worship God, but it doesn't need to be gilded in gold, to connect with God. We need spaces to study and learn, but it doesn't need to be the lecture hall of Harvard. We need spaces to cook, eat and fellowship together, but those spaces do not need to be a 5-star restaurant, limiting the clientele. We need spaces to store goods for our neighborhoods and to serve the physical and emotional needs of our neighborhoods, but those spaces do not need to be the Waldorf-Astoria. We have needs as a community, but to what end, God's or ours: a vehicle to connect us with God, or to park in the driveway to gather fortune and fame?

As we begin the process this month of discerning what we need from our building spaces, I will repeat *Ad Nauseum*, that our buildings need to serve the purpose of connecting us to God not filling our checking accounts or our egos. Perhaps this is the golden opportunity to clean house, literally and metaphorically. Are our sanctuaries about worship or entertainment or competition? Are our kitchens and dining rooms about fellowship and camaraderie or snobbery in the form of gilded plates and professional kitchens? Are our rooms about learning, and nurturing faith, or are they about status and showing off? What changes can we make to make our buildings to change them into the vehicle they were supposed to be, to bring us closer to God, not to become gods that deliver us further from God. Jesus cleaned house, maybe the time is now for us too also. Amen

In Christ, Rev. Mark



# Ashtabula Times



2024 per capita is \$38.00

## REPORT FROM TRINITY'S SESSION

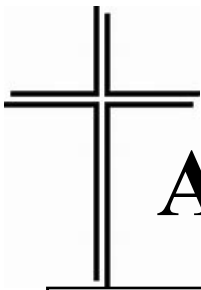
### Report from Trinity's Session

On Wednesday September 18th, Session met and the normal business was carried out including:

- Approval of Minutes of the August meeting.
- Approval of July and August financial reports
- The Clerk's report included
  - ◇ A request for use of the building which was tabled until October.
  - ◇ The review of membership rosters. Eleven people were moved to the inactive roll and three were removed from the inactive roll. This will bring our responsibility for Per Capita to 46.
- Approval of the Minister's Report which included:
  - ◇ List of calls and visits
  - ◇ Bible Study classes Wednesdays and Thursdays.
  - ◇ Cluster is planning a Fall workshop October 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - ◇ There will be a Town Hall Meeting October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30 at East Side.
  - ◇ Rev. Mong has approved for vacation and Study Leave.
    - He will be on vacation October 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>.
    - November 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> he will attend the National Moderators' Conference in Louisville.
    - December 25<sup>th</sup> -January 1<sup>st</sup> will be vacation.
  - ◇ Rev. Mong continues as the Moderator of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve, serves on the Moderator's Committee and the Coordinating Cabinet.
- Committee Reports were given including:
  - ◇ Worship and Music noted that there will be a joint choir at East Side, and a joint Bell Choir at Christmas time.
  - ◇ Property and Finance made a motion that a quote from Ziegler be presented to the congregation. Session approved to call a congregational meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup>.
  - ◇ Ministerial Relations met with the MRC from East Side for Rev. Mong's review. These folks are available to field any questions or concerns. Mary Belding, Pam Bloom, Cathy Burnham, Beth Dougherty. Dale Fassett, Flossie Hudson, Edie Makynen, and Phyllis Willis.
  - ◇ Fellowship will need assistance serving at the leadership workshop in October. There are still cookbooks available.
  - ◇ Deacons will meet jointly with East Side.
  - ◇ The Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers at the October Session meeting.



Mary Belding, Clerk



# Ashtabula Times

## **REPORT FROM EAST SIDE'S SESSION**

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM EAST SIDES SESSION MEETING:

- The Docket was approved.
- Becki Cleveland represented the Deacons at the meeting.
- The Minutes and Treasurer's Reports were approved
- The Church Audit will be completed on September 17, 2024.
- The Session approved increasing the Substitute Organist pay to \$100.00 per Sunday.

### Pastor's Report:

- The next Town Hall Meeting will be October 3, 2024, at East Side.
- Fall Workshop is being planned for October 24, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
- Newsletter deadline is September 23, 2024.
- Mark will be on vacation from October 7th through October 13th.
- Session reviewed Mark's visitations and calls.



### Committee Reports:

- The Clerk reported that the Minute Book was reviewed and approved by Presbytery without exception.
- The Ministerial Relations Committee completed Mark's Review and reviewed his terms of call for 2025.
- Buildings and Grounds reported that Riis, the tenant residing in the manse, will be moving out September 17, 2024.
- Nominating Committee is looking for two Elders to serve three-year terms.
- Outreach is planning a Women's Night Out on October 15th. Peace Offering will be taken in October.
- Personnel reported that reviews will be done in October and the Session will do Kevin's review.
- Worship and Music reported that Linda Melaragno will be substitute Organist on October 6, 2024. Communion will be served on October 6, 2024.

We continue to keep Joyce Shellhammer, Jim and Rose Booth and Jim Johnston in our prayers.

## **FROM TRINITY CARDMAKERS**

Would you like to inspire love and joy through sisterhood and creativity? That is the purpose of the cardmakers who meet at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

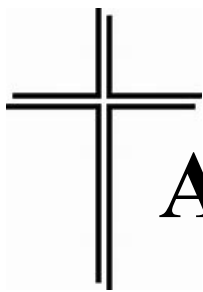
Everyone has a talent related to cardmaking, such as choosing sentiments or colors, envisioning a card front, coloring or painting.

We have all the supplies you need. We also have easy, ready to assemble card kits. Please check us out any time you wish! We meet the first and third Mondays at 5:30 (if it's not too hot or too cold).

Call 440-813-4176 for more information.

Thank you,  
Beth Adams





# Ashtabula Times

## EASTSIDE'S MEETING SCHEDULE

Session—Monday, October 21st, 2024 at 6:30pm

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

Yes You Can Crafting Group—Mondays, 9:30am-Noon

Worship and Music—October 14th at 6:30pm

Deacon's— October 14th at 11:30am



## EASTSIDE'S BIRTHDAYS

3rd Alex Burnham  
11th Beverly Woodburn  
14th Jim Booth  
28th Gary Quine  
31st Kelly Bodnark



## EASTSIDE'S ANNIVERSARIES

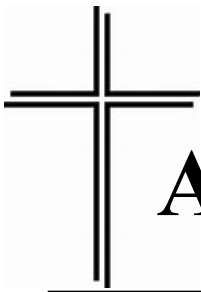
15th Becki & Paul Cleveland

## TOWN HALL

All three Ashtabula City Churches will be meeting on Wednesday, October 2nd at 6:30pm in East Side'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, Joyce Shellhammer, Cliff Titus, Aaron, Mike Kenney, Family of Phil Varcette, and Bernice Boggs



# Ashtabula Times

## JOINT COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The committee met following worship at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, September 22, 2024.

### COLLECTIONS

- A total of \$1728.00 was donated to the Ashtabula County K-9 Fund.
- Vitamins collected were sent to Jeannie Szilagyι for the work of S.A.R.A. in Ukraine
- School supplies were delivered to G.O. Ministries for the giveaway.



### CONTINUING AND UPCOMING PROJECTS

- PEACEMAKING OFFERING will be collected during the month of October. Envelopes will be available in the pews.
- Blankets and linens will be collected for Catholic Charities during October and November.
- Soft covered bibles will be collected for THE WAY OUT PRISON MINISTRY.
- Boxes for collecting these will be placed at both churches. The bibles need not be new.
- The committee is preparing Raffle Baskets for Homesafe's fund raising event.
- A list of items that can be donated for Stacy's House will be posted and a tub set out for the donations.
- We continue to collect food for the food pantry, shoes for First Presbyterian, items for the Blessing Box, loose coins for the Kids Only Mission Fund, 2 Cents a Meal

### LADIES NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, October 15, 2024 @ Old Mill Winery, Geneva, OH @ 5 PM

SIGN-UP @ Fellowship Hour at East Side after worship or let Joyce Kren know you plan to attend

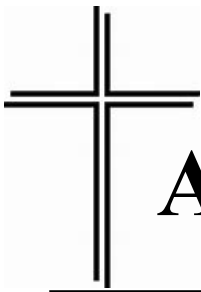


### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- G.O. Ministries
- Breakfast at First Baptist Church, M-F, 8:30-9:30 A.M. (feeding homeless)
- Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) for info visit [ashtabulagiveback.org](http://ashtabulagiveback.org) or contact Stephanie Blessing, Americore -440-670-9125 to volunteer
- Board of Elections Volunteers - [kdblair@boe.ashtabulacounty.oh.gov](mailto:kdblair@boe.ashtabulacounty.oh.gov)



Joint Outreach Committee  
Pam Bloom and Edie Makynen, Co-Chairs



# Ashtabula Times

## FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgical Day</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Anthem</u>
10/6/2024	27th Sunday in O.T.	East Side	
10/13/2024	28th Sunday in O.T.	East Side	3 Church Choir
10/20/2024	29th Sunday in O.T.	East Side	3 Church Choir
10/27/2024	30th Sunday in O.T.	East Side	3 Church Choir
11/3/2024	31st Sunday in O.T.	Trinity	
11/10/2024	32nd Sunday in O.T.	East Side	3 Church Choir
11/17/2024	33rd Sunday in O.T.	Trinity	
11/24/2024	Christ the King	Trinity	3 Church Choir
12/1/2024	1st Sunday of Advent	East Side	3 Church Choir
12/8/2024	2nd Sunday of Advent	East Side	3 Church Choir
12/15/2024	3rd Sunday of Advent	East Side	3 Church Choir
12/22/2024	4th Sunday of Advent	East Side	3 Church Choir
12/24/2024	Christmas Eve	East Side	3 Church Bells
12/29/2024	1st Sunday of Christmas	East Side	None



All Services are at  
10am

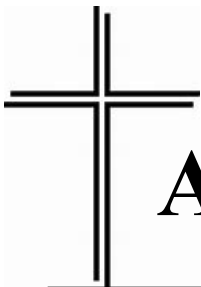
## CHOIRS RESUME



Our 3 Church voice choir will resume with rehearsal on Sunday, October 13th at 9am in East Side's Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome. The Choir will perform during worship as listed in the above chart.

Our 3 Church bell choir is organizing rehearsals to perform during our Christmas Eve Service. Please contact Marty Burnham from East Side (757) 615 4940, texting works best, to inform him of your interest and to receive the practice schedule.





# Ashtabula Times

## THANKSGIVING DINNER

@ EAST SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, FOLLOWING WORSHIP  
SIGN-UP BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024

**We welcome all of our First Presbyterian and Trinity Presbyterian members and friends to join us in a celebration of thanks to God for all of the blessings he has bestowed upon us.**

Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy and beverages will be provided. Attendees should bring a vegetable, salad or dessert to share.

We will also provide disposable platter-type plates, heavy duty plastic cutlery, napkins and cups. If anyone prefers to bring their own table service, feel free to do so.

Help will be available to carry covered dishes to the dining room when you arrive for worship.

For planning purposes, we ask that **reservations** be made **by Sunday, November 3**. **Sign-up sheets** will be available at East Side Church in the dining room or on the table at the back of the sanctuary starting October 13. You may also make a reservation by calling the church office **(440-993-7546)**. If you call when the office is not open, leave a message that provides your name and the number of people that will be attending.

**We hope that you will join us for great food and fellowship.**



## Introducing the JULIETS.....

