

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

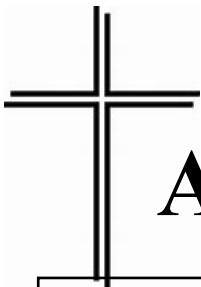
SEPTEMBER 2024
NEWSLETTER



“Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest is still open, let us take care that none of you should seem to have failed to reach it. ”

Hebrews 4:1





Ashtabula Times



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As a young boy I was often spending my free time playing with Legos. For either my birthday or for Christmas, I was given a set and I would spend countless hours building and taking apart. But, I never seemed to have enough to build what I wanted to build. When building an airplane, I didn't have any wings. When building a fire truck, I didn't have any wheels. When building city hall, I didn't have any roof. Needless to say, I was frustrated in my building endeavors to find that I never had enough Lego blocks to build what I wanted to, I was always needing more.

But while I was always looking for more Lego blocks to build what I wanted to build, I always had the perfect number of blocks to build what someone else suggested. I might have been wanting more wing blocks to build my airplane, but I had just enough to build a helicopter. I might have been wanting more wheels to build a fire truck, but I had just enough to build a cop car. I might have been wanting more roof blocks to build city hall, but I had just enough to build a gas station. What I noticed after a while of always needing more to build what I wanted to build, I always had enough to build what someone else had in mind. Instead of Legos being scarce, I already had an abundance of Legos.

So too is it with us. We think there just isn't enough. Our lives just don't have enough time in them to do everything we need to do. Our lives just don't have enough resources to do everything we need to do. Our lives just don't have the energy to do everything we need to do. We need more, and we need to get it before the family next door gets it, because the world just might run out of it. There is only so much good stuff going around and before it runs out, I need to get as much of it as possible, so that I will not run out of it. We live as though everything good in this life is scarce and we had better get it first and store it up for tomorrow.

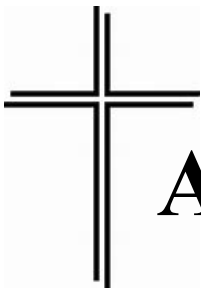
But what if.... What if we were not always lacking that something whatever it is, but what if we already had an abundance of it? What if we were never missing the Legos we needed to build an airplane because we were supposed to build a helicopter? Instead of things being scarce, what if God has already given us the abundance we need?

Many of today's churches are aging; meaning time, energy and strength are lacking. Many of today's churches are parents; meaning time, energy and strength are lacking. Many of today's church have other priorities; meaning time, energy and strength are lacking. But what if instead of not always lacking those things, what if God has already given us the abundance we need?

The disciples sure thought they didn't have enough when they said to Jesus a few loaves and fish are not going to feed five thousand men besides the women and children. The disciples thought that a year's wages still couldn't feed that many people and they surely didn't have a year's wages and wouldn't give it up if they did. But Jesus wasn't interested in what they didn't have, Jesus wasn't worried about scarcity, Jesus knew his Father and Jesus trusted that his Father already gave him everything he needed abundantly. So Jesus took what he did have and fed thousands of people. What they already had was more than enough to do what God wanted. Jesus didn't deal in scarcity, Jesus dealt with God's abundance.

What if we as Christians didn't deal in scarcity but instead dealt in abundance? What if instead of worrying about how we don't have people in the pews, or money in the checking account, or a leaky roof that we can't fix, what if we dealt in what we do have? Abundant gifts freely given of the Spirit of Jesus Christ to do the work of God, prepared for us, instead of the work we prepare for ourselves. What if instead of worrying about not being able to make an airplane with what we don't have, we instead build the helicopter with everything God has already abundantly given. Let us deal in God's abundance instead of the world's scarcity!

In Christ,
Rev. Mark



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2024 per capita is \$38.00

REPORT FROM TRINITY'S SESSION

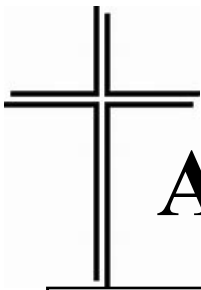
Report from Trinity's Session

On Wednesday August 21st, Session met and the normal business was carried out including:

- Approval of Minutes of the June meeting.
- Approval of June financial reports
- The Clerk's report included Thank you notes from:
 - ◊ Tim Jermaine for his graduation party in the Fellowship Hall.
 - ◊ Cyndi Riley and the LaDu family for Peg's funeral, flowers, and dinner.
 - ◊ GOCDC from spices and school supplies donated.
- 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
 - ◊ There will be a Town Hall Meeting Sept. 4th, 6:30 at First.
 - ◊ Rev. Mong requested and was approved for vacation and Study Leave.
 - ◆ He will be on vacation October 7th-12th.
 - ◆ November 11th – 17th he will attend the National Moderators' Conference in Louisville.
 - ◆ December 25th -January 1st 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 approved and included:
 - ◊ Worship and Music made a motion, which carried, that we proceed with joint worship with three churches. Sept at First, Oct at East Side, Nov at Trinity (10th at East Side), Dec at East Side.
 - ◊ Deacons contributing \$300 to the Blessing Box. Deacons will meet Jointly with ES.
 - ◊ Property and Finance reported that we will receive \$6000 from Utica Insurance because of the damage to the AC unit.
 - ◊ Ministerial Relations met with the MRC from East Side. 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.



Mary Belding, Clerk of Session



Ashtabula Times

REPORT FROM EAST SIDE'S SESSION

From the Deacons: Bernice Boggs has moved to a Care Center in Lebanon, Ohio. The Deacons were thanked for providing cookies for the Brown Bag Lunches.

The Minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved as printed.

From the Pastor:

- First Presbyterian approved worshipping together for the next four months.
- Bible Studies continue.
- Reviewed visitations and calls with Mark.
- Townhall Meeting will be September 4, 2024.
- Approved vacation for Mark: October 7th – 13th, November 11 – 17th, and Dec. 25th – Jan 1.
- Thanksgiving Dinner has been moved to November 10, 2024.



From the Clerk: Approved Church Use for Tammy McTrusty to use the dining room and kitchen for a Bridal Shower on August 31, 2024.

Approved fall schedule for worship services. We will meet at First in September.

Buildings and Grounds: Bathroom plumbing issue resolved at Manse.

Finance: Audit will be done soon.

Nominating: Working on elders and deacons for next term.

Outreach: We collected \$265 for the law enforcement K-9 fund and received a thank you, 8 bottles of children's vitamins and \$22 was collected for S.A.R.A.'s work in the Ukraine, \$107 (40% of Pentecost) will go to Stacy's House, and a huge trunk load of school supplies was donated to G.O, Ministries for their back to school give away.

Ministerial Relations Committee is now a combined committee with both East Side and Trinity Members.

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.

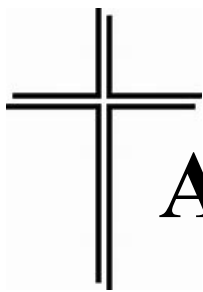
Everyone has a talent related to cardmaking, such as choosing sentiments or colors, envisioning a card front, coloring or painting.

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, September 16, 2024 at 6:30pm

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

Yes You Can Crafting Group—Resumes September, 16 9:30am-Noon

Worship and Music—September 9th at 6:30pm

Deacon's— at 11:30am



EASTSIDE'S BIRTHDAYS

14th—Paul Cleveland
21st—Berniece Boggs



EASTSIDE'S ANNIVERSARIES

6th Gerry & Nora Giangola

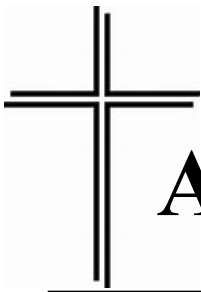
TOWN HALL

All three Ashtabula City Churches will be meeting on Wednesday, September 4th at 6:30pm in First Presbyterian's Fellowship Hall 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 Chuck Stillman, Joyce Shellhammer, Cliff Titus, Aaron, Frank, Charles, Sam, Family of Bob Burnette, Becki, Cathy, Mike Kenney, Ted Robishaw, Doug Halladak, Family of Bill Skarlin-ski, Patti Hartnett, Nathan Hines, Phyliss Wright and Bernice Boggs



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JOINT COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- The committee met after fellowship August 18, 2024.



JUNE OUTREACH COLLECTIONS:

All churches received a note of thanks from the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Canine Team.

JULY COLLECTIONS COMPLETED:



SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION WAS DELIVERED TO G.O. MINISTRIES. G.O. Ministries is always grateful for donations provided.

CHILDREN'S VITAMINS COLLECTED TO BE DELIVERED TO S.A.R.A.

SOFT COVERED BIBLE MINISTRY PLACED ON HOLD

UPCOMING ITEMS OF INTEREST:

STACY'S HOUSE – Stacy Gankos will speak as to her mission at "Stacy's House" in September

RSVP = RETIRED SENIORS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM – Stephanie Blessing to speak to Church

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES YO Now Known As "THE HUB"

CONTACT Becca Stowell from Trinity at 440-813-1607 for more information.

CONTACT –SHEA 576-5588 – JENNA 576-5599

Call if you need help with small home projects, yard work, etc.



HOMESAFE – Committee will be creating raffle baskets for annual event



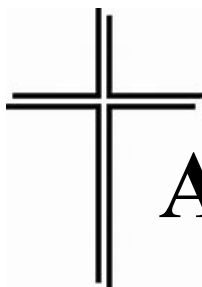
LADIES NIGHT OUT TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024



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.
- Rummage and Bake Sale – see Becki Cleveland
- Board of Elections Volunteers - kmblair@boe.ashtabulacounty.oh.gov

Pam Bloom and Edie Makynen, Co-Chairs



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FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9/1/2024	22nd Sunday in O.T.	First Pres.	
9/8/2024	23rd Sunday in O.T.	First Pres.	
9/15/2024	24th Sunday in O.T.	First Pres.	
9/22/2024	25th Sunday in O.T.	First Pres.	
9/29/2024	26th Sunday in O.T.	First Pres.	
10/6/2024	27th Sunday in O.T.	East Side	
10/13/2024	28th Sunday in O.T.	East Side	
10/20/2024	29th Sunday in O.T.	East Side	
10/27/2024	30th Sunday in O.T.	East Side	Trinity Congregational Meeting
11/3/2024	31st Sunday in O.T.	Trinity	
11/10/2024	32nd Sunday in O.T.	East Side	Thanksgiving Pot Luck
11/17/2024	33rd Sunday in O.T.	Trinity	
11/24/2024	Christ the King	Trinity	
12/1/2024	1st Sunday of Advent	East Side	East Side Congregational Meeting
12/8/2024	2nd Sunday of Advent	East Side	
12/15/2024	3rd Sunday of Advent	East Side	
12/22/2024	4th Sunday of Advent	East Side	
12/24/2024	Christmas Eve	East Side	
12/29/2024	1st Sunday of Christmas	East Side	



All Services are at 10am

RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE

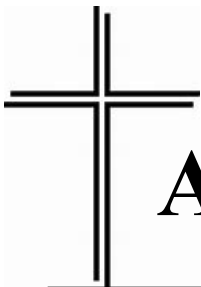
East Side is now collecting items to be sold during their annual Rummage Sale. Please leave them in the basement Sunday School rooms. The Sale will be on Friday, September 13th from 8-3 and Saturday, September 14th from 9-1.



COOKBOOK CORRECTION



On page 9 under Dawn's Dips, only the first sentence goes with that recipe. The remaining sentences are a separate recipe. Ruth Allen has stickers with correction and highlighted sentences. If anyone would like to exchange their cookbooks, she will do so. I am very sorry for any inconvenience. Ruth Allen



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TRINITY PROPERTY AND FINANCE

Thank you, Ruth Allen, for weeding around the West and South sides of the church building. What a change it has made!

Thank you to whomever cut the grass on the east side of the Church. This previous parking lot is an area we have not needed in quite some time. Now, with our friends from East Side and First Presbyterian churches joining us for worship, we need to use the space for more parking. *God is Good!*



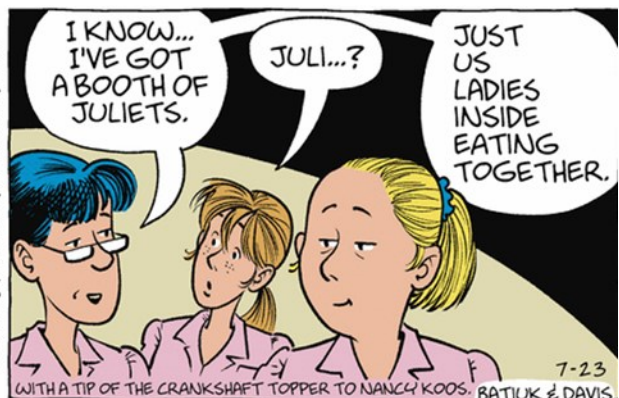
We are currently receiving bids to replace the air conditioning unit that has not been in working order for quite some time. A claim was submitted to our insurance company and we have received the payment. The funds have been deposited into the Capital Improvement fund.

The church has made the first \$10,000.00 withdrawal from investments to assist in operating expenses. It is our hopes that we will only have to do this 1-2 additional times in 2024.

Thank you for your support!

Beth Dougherty, Rich Fassett, Craig Reiter, Hobart Shiflet, Mark Mong,

Introducing the JULIETS.....



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7-23

WITH A TIP OF THE CRANKSHAFT TOPPER TO NANCY KOOS. RATIUK & DAVIS.