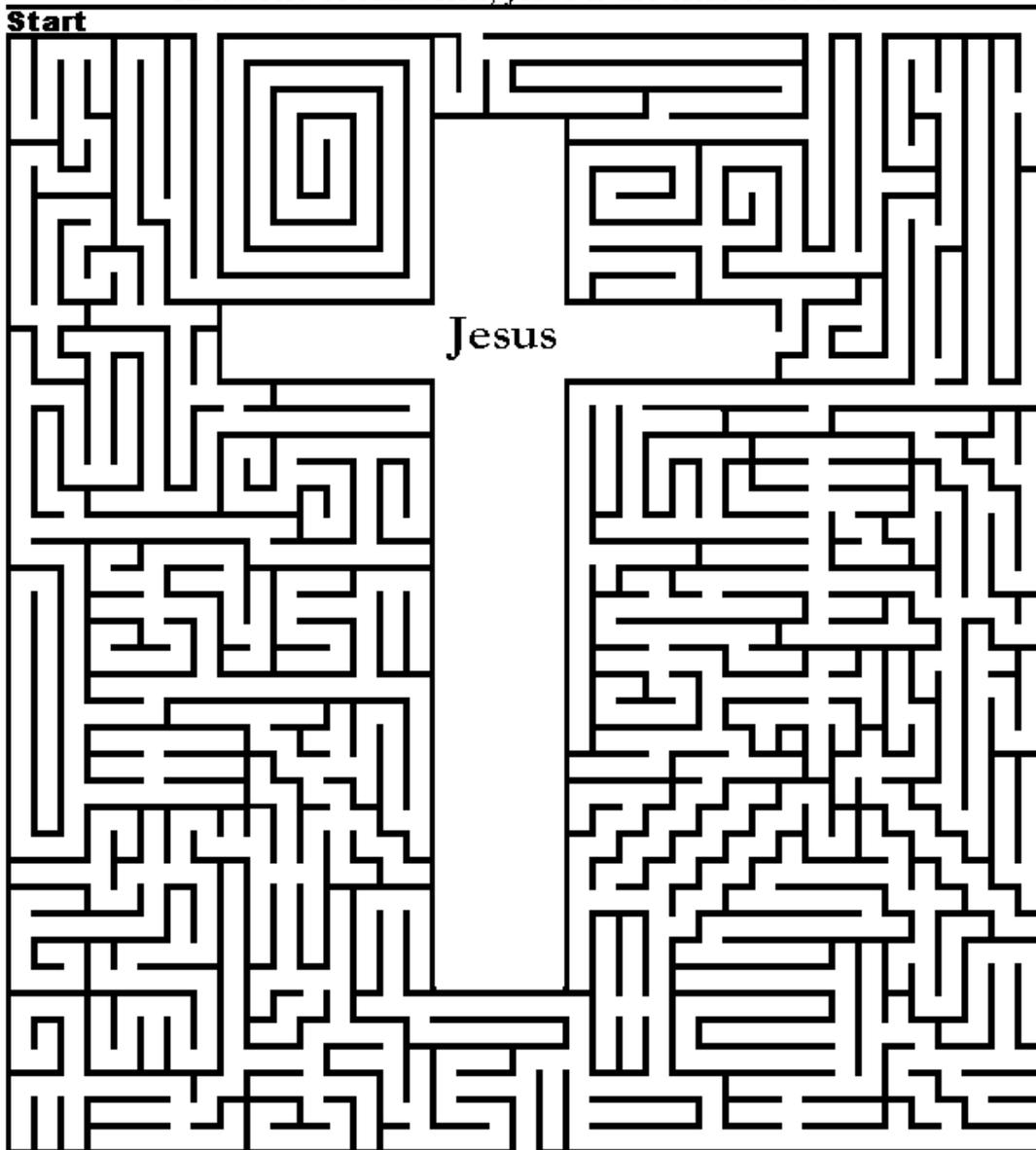


TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1342 WEST PROSPECT ROAD
ASHTABULA OH 44004

APRIL 2022
NEWSLETTER



In a world of confusion, Jesus is the clear choice.



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Trinity Times

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the strongest Man or Woman competition, one of the trials that all the competitors must attempt to complete is to pull a semi-truck from a complete stop to a finish line a distance away. The competitors must use brute strength to overcome the inertia of the truck and pull it the desired distance. Inertia is the property of matter which wants to keep it either at rest or in motion. It must be overcome by the athlete to change the rest into motion. Inertia is the tendency to do nothing or to remain unchanged.

Just as objects are affected by inertia, the tendency to stay at rest or to stay in motion, so too is the church of Jesus Christ. We tend to stay in places of comfort and resist change or transformation to another place. Moving a semi that is at rest takes a large amount of strength; trying to move a body of people that is at rest also takes a large amount of strength. The body of people want to stay as they are, with a status quo, and a comfort level that gives both security and surety on the path of discipleship.

But what the past few years and past few weeks have done is to overcome the inertia of congregations. Whether the agent be the pandemic, or inflation, or political turmoil, or invasion of the Ukraine, these agents have overcome the inertia of our congregations and have forced us to move or change. We cannot rest where we were in 2019, we had to relearn church in a global pandemic; and our life together in worship and work has changed. We cannot rest where we were in 2000, we had to relearn church amid rising costs; and we have yoked together with East Side. We cannot rest where we were in the 1960s, we have political turmoil; and we have had to learn to be faithful to God instead of a political agenda. We have not been allowed to rest in the ways things were, or a status quo of our own design, we have been disrupted in our comfort zones. God has overcome the inertia and forced us to adapt and to relearn. God has led us to move forward.

But while the forced change has been challenging, the overcoming of inertia should not be surprising. After all, even in Isaiah's time the people of God in Israel were told that *I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?* In exile, God was still doing new things, the new thing was their return to Canaan. But even in exile, the people had inertia. While Babylon was not Canaan, the people still had a routine and a status quo of doing things. They might have been under the boot of an oppressor, but the way of life together was a familiar and sure. The people had inertia and God was doing a new thing to get his people moving and changing. The question was could the people recognize the new thing God was doing?

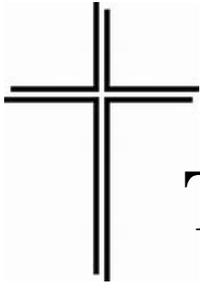
Can we recognize the new thing(s) that God is doing in our communal life together and embrace the new path forward or are we mired in inertia, resisting the change from God, and clinging to old ways that are both comforting and provide security from the chaos? I think it is important for us all to realize that we all have a certain amount of flexibility and adaptability. For some we can tolerate a large amount of change and perhaps treat it as a grand adventure. But for some, change is best kept in small amounts and resisted with every ounce of energy. But each of us can handle that certain amount of anxiety before the defense mechanisms kick in, anger and resentment, fear and worry, panic and desperation. Are we as a congregation at this point where we have been forced to deal with so much, in so small a time frame, that we are unable to see the new thing(s) that God is doing because we are overwhelmed?

But while the Gospel might challenge us as disciples to embrace and follow the new thing(s) that God is doing, the good news of the Gospel is that we are given the means to do so. Not only is God doing a new thing, but God is also *giving drink to my chosen people*. When we lose the comforts of familiar situations, we are reminded of the true comfort that only God can give. When we are pulled forward out from behind our literal and emotional defenses, we are reminded that Christ is our true defense against the chaos and nothingness. When we are forcibly removed from our sanctuaries, we are hidden in Christ, our only true and stout tower over us. When we are challenged to grow and to become better disciples, we are reminded that we have been buried and resurrected with Christ, of what else could we ever need more of to overcome our inertia?

My friends, I have no doubts that we are in a challenging time and place, being called to change weekly in ways we could not imagine or desire years ago. But the Prophet reminds us, that *God maybe the one doing a new thing, but can we see it?* But the prophet also says that even though God might be pulling us forward as pulling a semi, God is *watering us on our journey through the wilderness*. God is for us, and we have Christ to keep us and protect us along the way. Let us therefore in our difficult and ever-changing circumstances seek refuge and comfort only in our covenant with God in Jesus Christ.

In Christ,
Rev. Mark





Trinity Times

A Note From Session

Session will be listening to reports and suggestions/mandates regarding safe Covid procedures. As things change, so will we. For now, we will continue the procedures we have in place.

Trinity's committees have been busy.

Community Outreach, with Pam Bloom as chair, collected soup for Faith Lutheran Food Pantry as well as \$140 during "Souper" Bowl month. They collected baby needs during March for HIP at GO Ministries.

Property and Finance, with Beth Dougherty as Chair, continue with projects to maintain the church property. Two Town Hall meetings will have been completed to decide how to proceed with protecting the exterior of our church building.

Personnel, with Craig Reiter, Richard Fassett, and Kathy Fassett, did the needed change from contractors to employees of the custodian and pianist.

Worship and Music – Session is in charge of the responsibilities. We are sorry that Cheryl Hall who was our fill-in musician is unable due to health issues be with us any longer. We are blessed to welcome Eric Brewer to be our pianist during worship.

Ministerial Relations Committee, Mary Belding, Pam Bloom, Beth Dougherty, and Dale Fassett are available for any questions or concerns of the congregation and the pastor.

Yoke, Craig Reiter, Beth Dougherty, and Mary Belding continue meeting with East Side' members of the committee (Cathy Burnham, Doug Gill, and Jim Booth) as well as Rev. Mark Mong, Rev. John Gehring Anders, and Rev. Dean Myers. Rev. Mong will begin his yoked ministry on May 1st.

If you have any questions or concerns for any of these committees, or want to join them in their work, please contact the chair of the committee.

Upcoming special worship and meetings:

Maundy Thursday worship service

Session and the Board of Deacons will meet together April 20th at 6pm in the sanctuary.

We look forward to continuing to worship and work together to strive to discern where God would have Trinity move. Please keep us in your prayers.

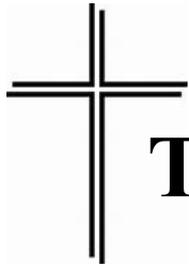
Blessings,

Mary Belding, Clerk



Easter Lilies

If you would like to donate an East Lily, we ask that you bring them on Easter Sunday, April 17th and take them home on April 24th. We ask that they be Lilies only, for the sake of Rev. Mark's allergies.



Trinity Times

A Note from Property and Finance

Property and Finance has received bids to repair the exterior of the church. On March 30, a town hall meeting was held for a final review by the congregation and to decide on the recommendation to be made to the committee. On April 3, a congregational meeting will be held to vote on the proposal brought forth from the Property and Finance committee. We can then hopefully begin moving forward with the process as the exterior of the church is in dire need of repairs. Thank you to everyone who helped locate various contractors. We couldn't have done it without you!

As a part of the congregational meeting held February 14, the 2022 budget was reported. We also approved the amended Minimum Terms of Call for Mark Mong, providing the Yoke is approved.

In February we shared information about the financial audit for 2021 being completed by an outside CPA. Our CPA, GMJ Consulting, completed a yearly audit for 2021 prior to taking over financial responsibilities. It was discussed and decided at the congregational meeting that this was sufficient for professional audit. A successful internal audit was completed by Nancy Sabo, Hobart Shiflet, Dee Fassett, and Beth Dougherty.

Our new sanctuary doors have been installed. J&E Heating serviced our boiler/heating system looking for deficiencies that could be fixed to "warm" up the sanctuary. Let's hope they are able to provide some improvements to help push that heat through the pipes!

We are so grateful to all the people who have supported the suggestions/requests brought forth by this committee. Your monetary donations, muscles, and your time is greatly appreciated. Without YOU we would not be able to achieve all the great things from the past and those to come in the future.

The Property and Finance group would like to express our appreciation for your generosity in support of the Capital Improvement fund. God continues to lead us to do amazing things. Thank you.

Beth Dougherty, Rich Fassett, Craig Reiter, Norm Jepson, Josh Hall, Terry Karvonen, Mark Mong, Hobart Shiflet

2022 per capita is \$34.91



Trinity Times

Community Outreach

Community Outreach continues to open our doors to the community with the love and support of all of you!

\$140.00 cash and many, many cans of soup were collected and donated to Catholic Charities during "souper" bowl February.

March was Baby Shower month for G.O. Ministries and the H.I.P. program which ended with a Baby Shower fellowship hour. Lots of baby items were collected.

April and May will be devoted to Homesafe. We have received information regarding their current needs and will be hosting a drive to assist with some of those needs.

Also, many thanks to the speedy bag ladies that continue to pack lunches for G.O. Ministries, currently at 70 bagged lunches. Laura Lue is the official cookie baker. You are greatly appreciated for all you do!

PUMC continues to receive a quarterly monetary donation from our church for their boxed dinners that feed a family of four.

Trinity continues to share its many blessings to our community through the dedication of all of you!



Nancy Sabo, Ruth Allen, Ruth Ann Ayers,
Kathy Fassett, Barb Beatty, Dee Fassett,
Mary Belding, Rev. Mong, Joyce Kren,
Pam Bloom

Yoke Update

The Presbytery has approved the yoke of Trinity and East Side! Rev. Mark will start Ministering to both churches on May 1st. This means that Trinity's worship will be moved to **9:30am** starting on **May 1st** and will run thus until October 31st.

Prayers

Annika Kelner, Eli Stroch, Greg Elliot, Beverly Cigani, Ellen, Dale Albert,
Chris Gurgel, Jodi Westover, Brian Mathers, Sarah Cantrell, Tracy Rowe,
Family of Tom Luce, Ken Babcock, Marion Shipman, and Stephen McClure

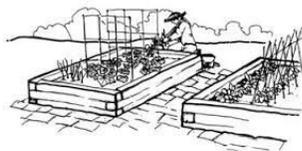


Trinity Times

The Eden Project

Our motto is "Growing Food, Growing Faith".

Spring *is* on its way!!!



You are welcome to join us in the garden. Help us plan and look forward to spending some time in the garden.

Hopefully, we will be able to provide some nutritious enjoyable food again this year. The project started out with much help from many people. We have been able in past years to donate produce to the International Harvest soup kitchen located at the Dream Center at West 57th Street and Washington Avenue. We have brought produce into the church to share with the congregation whenever possible.

Our two wonderful benches donated in honor of the Hoffmans are on the north east corner of our garden area and are still as nice as new. Our Ashtabula neighbors respectfully use them.

I am proud that Trinity Presbyterian Church recognizes the need to provide nutritious food to those in need.

Respectfully submitted:

Joyce Kren and Mary Belding

Scrip

Thanks to all who continue to purchase gift cards from scrip for gifts, groceries, gasoline, and more.

With spring projects coming up, keep the possibility of using scrip cards for large or small projects around your home. We can order your cards and have them within a week—so plan ahead!

Peace and Blessings,

Mary Belding

Dee Fassett



Ministerial Relations Committee (MRC)

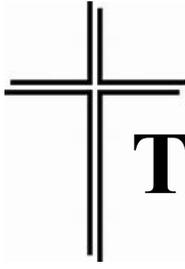
Got something on your mind? Your voice can be heard! Give us a call and let us help.

Dale Fassett, 440-228-4119

Mary Belding, 440-862-6786

Pam Bloom, 440-344-7277

Beth Dougherty, 440-661-1416



Trinity Times

March crossword puzzle answers

How many days are in Lent? Forty

Who ordered Jesus to die on the cross? Pontius Pilate

On what day does Lent start? Ash Wednesday

What day is the Last Supper? Holy Thursday

What day starts Holy Week? Palm Sunday

Who betrayed Jesus for silver? Judas

Jesus was stabbed on the cross by what weapon? Sword

How many people were crucified with Jesus? Two

On Good Friday service, you go up to the front of church and _____ the cross. Kiss

What station is when Jesus falls for the first time? Third

What is the color for Lent? Purple

What city was Simon who carried the cross from? Cyrene

Who cut off the soldier's ear in the garden? Peter

What is the day before Ash Wednesday called? Fat Tuesday

What day was Jesus crucified? Good Friday

On Palm Sunday, what town did Jesus ride into? Jerusalem

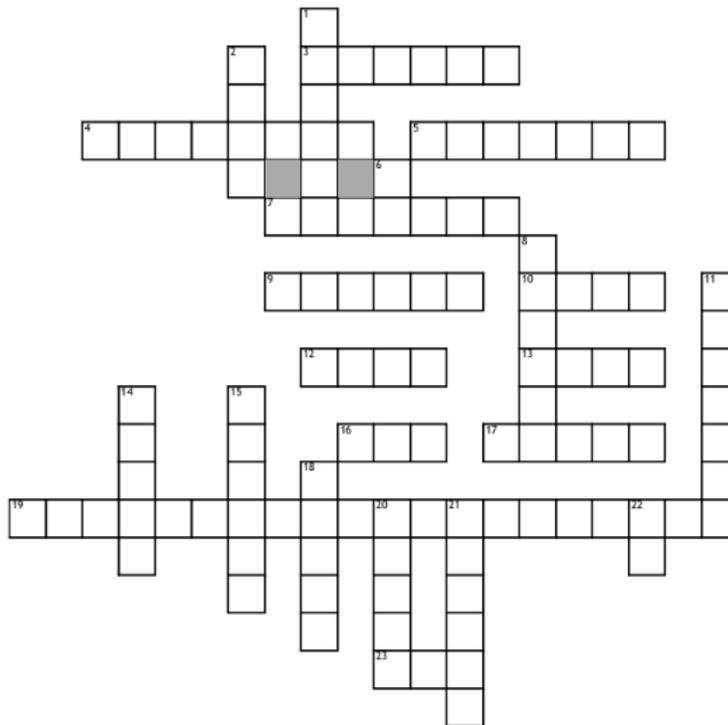
Who was released instead of Jesus by Pontius Pilate? Barabbas

Who tempted Jesus in the desert while he was fasting? Satan

Priests wash peoples' _____ during Holy Thursday mass. Feet

Who denied Jesus three times like Jesus predicted? Peter

Easter Crossword

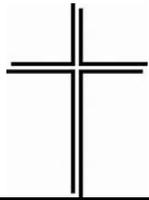


Across

3. This color is the color of royalty and also considered an Easter color.
4. Cheerful, yellow spring flower.
5. These white, trumpet-shaped flowers are popular at Easter.
7. The name of the Easter Egg that broke in two (song).
9. Easter eggs are often made out of this treat!
10. You bake Easter cookies in this.
12. All the directions that the Easter Bunny goes
13. Bright, glowy colors or paint.
16. A type of Bunny dance.
17. Traditionally this material is what baskets are made of.
19. A big piece of candy that is put into every Easter basket.
23. What you dip your eggs in to color them.

Down

1. The season in which Easter is celebrated.
2. Lop eared rabbits have ears that do what?
6. Easter Bunny's monogram.
8. What a woman wears in the Easter Parade?
11. The Energizer Bunny runs on this.
14. A big pile of eggs made by the Easter Bunny.
15. Irving Berlin wrote a song called "Easter _____."
18. Mr. Cottontail's first name.
20. What you send to your friends and family on Easter either via the US Mail or on-line.
21. "A-Tisket, A- _____" (Song)
22. The 1948 movie "Easter Parade" took place in this state.



APRIL 2022

Website www.trinityashtabula.org

Email trinitypres04@gmail.com

Elder On Call: Beth Dougherty 440-661-1416

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Al-Anon 7pm	Bible Study 10am N/A 7pm	Bible Study 7pm	1	2
3 Communion Face-Face Worship 10:30am Congregation Meeting Video Worship	4 Yoke Committee 7pm at Eastside	5 Al-Anon 7pm	6 Bible Study 10am Card group 7pm N/A 7pm	7 Bible Study 7pm	8	9 Lions Club Spaghetti Dinner 4-7pm 
10 2¢ A Meal Collection Face-Face Worship 10:30am Video Worship	11	12 Al-Anon 7pm	13 Property and Finance 6:30pm Bible Study 10am N/A 7pm	14 Maundy Thursday Worship 7pm Communion Face-Face	15	16
17 Face-Face Worship 10:30am Video Worship 	18 MRC 6:30pm	19 Al-Anon 7pm	20 Bible Study 10am Joint Deacons and Session 6pm N/A 7pm	21 Bible Study 7pm	22	23
24 Face-Face Worship 10:30am Video Worship	25	26 Al-Anon 7pm	27 Bible Study 10am Book Club 7pm N/A 7pm	28 Bible Study 7pm	29	30