

UNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1342 PROSPECT ROAD
ASHTABULA OH 44004
www.unityashtabula.org

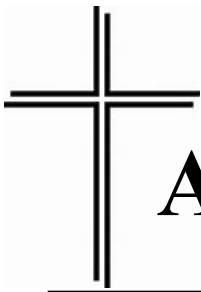
APRIL 2026
NEWSLETTER



“He is not here; for he has risen, as he said.
Come, see the place where he lay.”

Matthew 28:6





Ashtabula Times

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

April 11th and 12th: RAM (Remote Area Medical) Free clinic will be held at Lakeside Junior High School.



MAY 9: Ashtabula City Clean Up – Meet at Unity at 8:30 a.m. to pick up neighborhood streets. Donuts and Coffee provided!

MAY 12: Ladies Night at Old Mill Winery 4:30 p.m. Please sign up or see Joyce Kren.



MAY 17: Baby Shower for Independent Parents/G.O. Ministries following worship. Baby items for infants to two years of age.

JUNE: G.O. Ministries school supply give away is August 1st. We will begin school supply collection in June.

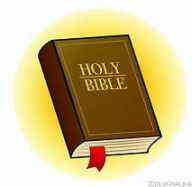
Blessing Box: Needed: handheld foods, hygiene products for men and women, plastic utensils, toothpaste & toothbrushes, scarves, and hats. The donations received from the Lenten Soup Services will be used to resupply some of these needs.



Continuing collection of soft sided bibles for Way Out Ministry.

Kids Only Fund purchased three pairs of children's shoes.

Our continued gratitude for your ongoing support!



NEXT MEETING – NO MEETING IN APRIL

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

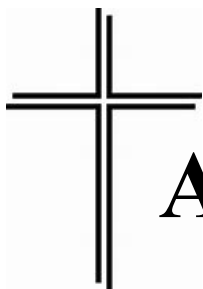
RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program) For information visit ashtabulagiveback.org or contact Stephanie Blessing – Americore – 440-670-9125 to volunteer

G.O. Ministries

Breakfast at First Baptist Church M-F – Feeding homeless 8:30-9:30 a.m.



Pam Bloom and Edie Makynen: co-chairpersons



Ashtabula Times

MEETING SCHEDULE

- ✦ Game Day—April 14th and 28th 11:30am—1:30pm at Unity
- ✦ ROMEOs—Tuesday, April 14th, 9am at Deb’s Diner
- ✦ Tri-Church Lunch Packing—Thursday, April 9th, 10am at Unity
- ✦ Merging Committee —Thursday, April 9th, 1pm at Unity



BIBLE STUDIES

Bible Studies will resume on Wednesday, April 22nd at 10am and Thursday, April 23rd at 7pm. All are invited to attend.



EASTSIDE’S BIRTHDAYS

- 1st - Liz Mong
- 9th - Doris Smith
- 18th - Vickie Campbell

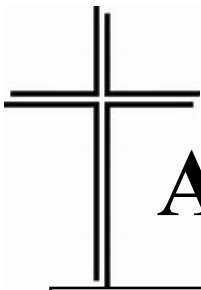
EASTSIDE’S ANNIVERSARIES

- 14th - Sara & Bob Wetzel



PRAYER LIST

Don Berg, Debbie Kemp, Wanda Breedlove, Stephanie Ashley, Genny Wallace, Jim & Rose Booth, Jim Johnston, Our Military, Addicts, Kelly Rose, Pam Win, Shirley Truesdell, and Jennifer Hakkarainen Coutts



Ashtabula Times

REPORT FROM TRINITY'S SESSION

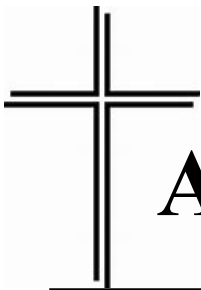
Session met March 18th for its final meeting and the normal business was carried out including:

- Approval of minutes from February session meeting.
- The clerk's report included Letters of transfer received from First Presbyterian Church of Ashtabula, transferring membership of Sharon Lloyd and Sue Pirigyi to Trinity. Session voted to receive them into membership. Welcome Sharon and Sue!
- The Minister's report included:
 - ◇ A list of his calls.
 - ◇ A list of upcoming worship services, including closings and openings.
 - ◇ His 3-year work with the Presbytery that will be completed in July.
 - ◇ Unity's first Congregational meeting will be April 19th.
 - ◇ Installation of officers will be April 26th.
 - ◇ Unity's first Session meeting will be May 6th.
 - ◇ Session approved his vacation request for May 11th-17th.
- Committee reports
 - ◇ Worship and Music
 - ✦ March 1st communion served 51, Ash Wednesday communion served 35.
 - ✦ Ushers and communion servers for April were set.
 - ◇ Community Outreach
 - ✦ May 9th City clean-up.
 - ✦ May 12th Ladies gathering at Old Mill Winery 4:30
 - ✦ May 17th Baby Shower
 - ◇ Property and Finance
 - ✦ The new doors are on order.
 - ◇ Fellowship
 - ✦ Free will offerings during the Lenten suppers will fund the Blessing Box
 - ✦ Flowers are ordered for Easter
 - ◇ Memorial
 - ✦ \$3190 of undesignated funds will, as Session approved, be moved to the Capital Improvement Fund to be used toward the new doors.
 - ◇ Merging
 - ✦ Continuing work on the Manual of Operations
 - ✦ Unity's Bylaws will be available for approval at the Congregational Meeting April 19th.



Meeting
Minutes

Mary Belding, Clerk of Trinity



Ashtabula Times

MERGING COMMITTEE

Since May of 2025, we have come together to discern the steps needed to become Unity Presbyterian Church of Ashtabula.

The Merging Committee has produced a Vision Statement, By-Laws, and a Manual of Operations which includes Policies, Guidelines, and Committees for the Unity Presbyterian Church. This will all be compiled and provided electronically.

This has been an exciting and rewarding endeavor. Through this process, our understanding of Church has grown and a stronger fellowship has blossomed.


It is our hope that this work will serve our church into the future.

The Merging Committee: Mary Belding, Pam Bloom, Cathy Burnham, Beth Dougherty, Ellen Jacobs, Rosemary Peck, Edie Makynen and Craig Reiter



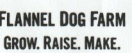




**ASHTABULA
EMPTY BOWLS**

April 24th 5:00-7:00P

All Proceeds Go To Buy Tickets Here
Feed Our Vets at the
\$25 The Ashtabula Arts Center 

Hosted by LHS Art Club Pick out a hand made bowl
Fill it twice with soups from local restaurants

ASHTABULA Arts CENTER & MORE 

Ashtabula Times

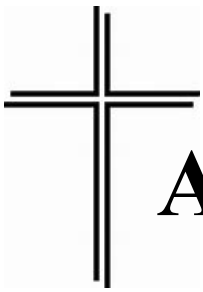
REPORT FROM EAST SIDE'S SESSION

- The Minutes were reviewed and approved.
- The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved.
- Pastor's Report:
 1. Bible Studies are on hold until after Lent.
 2. Reviewed visits and calls with Mark.
 3. New caregiver support group is forming.
 5. Mark continues to serve as Moderator of the Coordinating Cabinet and serves on the Moderator's Committee and Coordinating Cabinet.
 6. Beginning the process to move the sign to Unity.
 7. Lenten Suppers continue until Maundy Thursday. We will be having soup and worship on Thursday evenings at 6:00 PM.
 8. The final Worship Service at East Side was held March 22, 2026. April 12th Trinity will have their Closing Service and the Opening Service for Unity.
 9. Congregational Meeting will be April 19th, and Officers will be installed April 26th .
 10. Nora has moved to Trinity and Renee will be moving her office soon.
 11. Approved vacation for Mark: May 11th through May17th.
- Clerk's report: The Clerk is required by Presbytery to keep a log and file on Boundary Training of Elders.
- Merging Committee is continuing to work on Budget and Bank Accounts.
- Session approved the rolls to be combined with Trinity's rolls to form Unity's membership.
- Buildings and Grounds: Committee plumbing and heating repairs were done at the Lockhart residence.
- Outreach: The H.I.P. Baby Shower will be May 17th , Ladies Nite will be May 12th, City Clean-up will be May 9th , School Supply giveaway will be August 1, 2026.
- Worship and Music: Last Sunday the choir will sing is May 24 th , and the Summer Picnic is scheduled for August 16th .



**MEETING
MINUTES**

Cathy Burnham, Clerk of Session



Ashtabula Times

PLEASE JOIN US
**FOR A BABY
SHOWER**

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.....

IN HONOR OF
CHILDREN OF INDEPENDENT
PARENTS (H.I.P.) through G.O.
Ministries

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SUNDAY, May 17,
FOLLOWING WORSHIP
.....

.....
Items for infant to
two (diapers,
hygiene, clothes)
.....

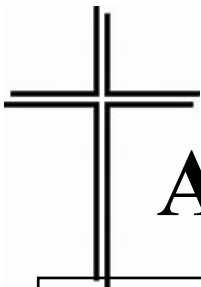
TRINITY CLOSING/UNITY OPENING WORSHIP

The Session of the Trinity Presbyterian Church along with the Administrative Commission of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve have set a date for the final Sunday worship service for the congregation of the Trinity Presbyterian Church and the opening of the Unity Presbyterian Church. We will be gathering in Trinity's Sanctuary on Sunday, April 12th at 10am with members of the Presbytery to celebrate the life and closure of Trinity and the joy and opening of Unity. We will be celebrating communion with past Ministers and current members of the Presbytery.

Reservation sheet for the celebrations will be in Fellowship hall or contact Nora at Church Office (440) 993-7111 with reservation and number participating.

We are serving hors d'oeuvres and sign up sheet will be in Fellowship Hall. Contact Ruth Allen or Nancy Sabo with any questions.





Ashtabula Times

CLOSING OF EAST SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Heartfelt thanks are offered to Rev. Mark Mong for his planning and orchestration of a moving and meaningful dissolution and vacating service for our beloved East Side Presbyterian Church. His message was sensitive to our emotions and filled with words of hope for the future. The eulogy delivered by former pastor, Rev. S. Shane Nanney, brought forth volumes of memories resulting in moments of both laughter and tears, but concluded with words of inspiration for a bright future for our new church, Unity. The Rev. Kurt Walker, former interim pastor, administered communion and his son, Isaac offered special music. We were honored to have Moderator Gordon Landefeld, Elder Martha Goble and Elder Chris Hieston from the Presbytery of the Western Reserve join us, as well as The Rev. John Gehring-Anders, our former covenant pastor. There have been numerous comments expressing the sentiment that the entire service was so very touching and special. It paid respect and honor to the rich legacy of East Side Presbyterian Church.

And, (because food is always a must with any Presbyterian event) following the service, a meal was enjoyed by more than 125 members, friends, and guests. Sincere thanks are extended to the many members of Trinity Presbyterian Church who so graciously handled all the kitchen duties so East Siders could enjoy the time of fellowship. What a blessing they provided.

Thanks are also extended to those from East Side who set up displays, addressed invitations, and completed the preparations for the final tribute. You were instrumental in creating a memorable experience.

God has led the church to this time and place. East Side Church will forever live on in the hearts and minds of her people and the strong traditions of service to God and His people will go forth in UNITY!

!!!! PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW !!!!

Sara Wetzel and Edie Makynen

Co-Chairs, March 22, 2026

COURTNEY WETZEL MEMORIAL

Sara and Bob Wetzel graciously and generously chose to have the funds from Courtney's memorial gifts used to pay for the catered meal, cake, and favors that were part of the closing of East Side Church. Courtney expertly organized hundreds of special events as part of her job. Her family felt that funding the final celebration would be a fitting memorial gift to the church she grew up in and loved.

We extend our sincerest thanks to Sara, Bob, and the extended families for such a meaningful gift to our beloved church. The memory of Courtney will live in our hearts forever.