

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

AUGUST 2025
NEWSLETTER



“Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.”

Matthew 14:19



Picnic



Ashtabula Times

TOWN HALL MEETING

On Wednesday, August 6th at 6:30pm, we will be having a Town Hall Meeting in Trinity's Sanctuary to discuss the New Vision Statement of the congregation formed from the merger of Trinity and East Side Presbyterian and the next steps. All three churches are invited to attend. Here is the Proposed Vision Statement:



As the body of Christ, called by God, led by the Spirit, we are a people of faith:

- *called to share Christ's love with all God's children in our community and the world and to minister to the needs of others.*
- *dedicated to growing in faithfulness to God, we engage in joyful worship, prayer, learning, and supportive fellowship, embodying the spirit of Christ as a body of believers.*
- *united despite our differences, all while honoring God's call upon our community.*

NOTES FROM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

The Blessing Box

Since the inception of the Blessing Box which became our Outreach project that began in June of 2022 to help support the needs of the homeless individuals in our area, we have so far provided food items in the amount of \$2882. Many thanks to those who have donated to the Outreach project and to those who have stopped by on numerous occasions and included additional food items to support the needy individuals in our community.



Our most recent Outreach was to UH Hospitals - Geneva/Conneaut for the fundraiser "Walk for the Cure" for Breast Health Education which is being held in September. -\$200.

Our yearly mission to G.O. Ministries is \$2000.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Peleg Park will once again host the annual Concerts in the Park Tuesdays, from 7-9pm. Here is the remaining schedule:

August 5, 2025— Kevin Johnston

August 12, 2025—Elvis





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All Services are at
10am

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgical Day</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Anthem</u>
8/3/2025	18th Sunday in O.T.	First Pres.	Special Music
8/10/2025	19th Sunday in O.T.	First Pres.	Special Music
8/17/2025	Church Picnic	Lakeshore Park	
8/24/2025	21st Sunday in O.T.	First Pres.	Special Music
8/31/2025	22nd Sunday in O.T.	First Pres.	Special Music
9/7/2025	23rd Sunday in O.T.	Unity	Special Music
9/14/2025	24th Sunday in O.T.	Unity	3 Church Choir
9/21/2025	25th Sunday in O.T.	Trinity	3 Church Choir
9/28/2025	26th Sunday in O.T.	Trinity	3 Church Choir
10/5/2025	27th Sunday in O.T.	First Pres.	Special Music
10/12/2025	28th Sunday in O.T.	First Pres.	Special Music
10/19/2025	29th Sunday in O.T.	First Pres.	Special Music
10/26/2025	30th Sunday in O.T.	First Pres.	Special Music
11/2/2025	All Saints Day	Unity	3 Church Choir
11/9/2025	32nd Sunday in O.T.	Trinity	3 Church Choir
11/16/2025	33rd Sunday in O.T.	Trinity	3 Church Choir
11/23/2025	Christ the King Sunday	Trinity	3 Church Choir
11/30/2025	1st Sunday of Advent	Trinity	3 Church Choir

BIBLE STUDIES

Our Bible Studies resume Wednesday Mornings at 10am in Unity's Sewing Room, we will be studying 3 John, Jude, and Revelation. Thursday Evenings we will gather at 7pm in Unity's Fellowship Room. We will be studying Judges and Ruth. Everyone is welcome and no prior knowledge or understanding is needed. Feel free to bring your own Bibles but not required. Contact Rev. Mark with any questions.





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JOINT COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our next meeting is currently scheduled for August 24, 2025.

MISSION RESULTS FOR MAY-JULY 2025:

Pentecost collection completed 6/8/2025.

Ashtabula City Clean up was May 17th and the streets around Unity were cleaned up by church members.

Tuesday night in the parks is ongoing at East Side.

UNITY PRESBYTERIAN LADIES NIGHT OUT (AND ANYONE ELSE THAT WOULD LIKE TO JOIN)

MONDAY AUGUST 11 – STEELE MANSION TOUR

Dinner at 5p.m. followed by a tour and history of the 150-year-old Steele Mansion. There will be a walking tour of the entire building. The Mansion is wheelchair accessible. The elevator reaches all 4 levels. There is a ramp at the rear of the building.

Cost is \$36/per person that will be collected prior to attending. This includes a meal (Chef's choice casserole), hot and cold beverages, tax, tour and gratuity is optional. A cash bar is available.

Sign-up sheet is in fellowship hall or contact Pam Bloom – 440-344-7277



2025 AGENDA

Please retain so you can choose how you wish to share your blessings with these mission projects throughout the year.

July-August: **SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION** - Tax free 8/1 to 8/14

September: Raffle Baskets for **HOMESAFE** will be created by the committee.
PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING (Peacemaking and Reconciliation) for PCUSA begins. Envelopes will be in the pews. The 25% kept locally will be donated to **HOMESAFE**.

October: **PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING** final collection date is October 8.
CATHOLIC CHARITIES BLANKET AND LINEN COLLECTION begins.

November: **CATHOLIC CHARITIES BLANKET AND LINEN COLLECTION** continues.
ADOPTION OF CHILDREN FOR CHRISTMAS

December: **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**
HAT, GLOVE AND MITTEN TREE

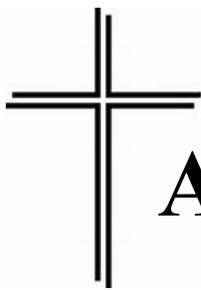


VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program)
- For information visit ashtabulagiveback.org or contact Stephanie Blessing – Ameri core – 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





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MEETING SCHEDULE

Worship and Music—Monday, August 4th, 6:30pm at Unity

Game Day—Tuesday, August 5th, 11:30am at Unity

Town Hall Meeting—Wednesday, August 6th, 6:30pm at Unity

Deacons—Sunday, August 10th after worship at First Pres.

Joint Ministerial Relations Committee—Tuesday, August 12th, 6:30pm at Unity

ROMEOS—Tuesday, August 12th, 9am at Deb’s Diner

Merging Committee and Both Sessions—Wednesday, August 13th, 7pm at Unity

Tri-Church Lunch Packing—Thursday, August 14th 10am at Unity

Church Picnic—Sunday, August 17th 10am at Lakeshore Park Overlook Pavilion

East Side Session—Monday, August 18th, 6:30pm at East Side

Trinity Property/Finance—Wednesday, August 20th, 6pm at Unity

Trinity Session—Wednesday, August 20th, 7pm at Unity

Outreach —Sunday, August 24th, after worship at First Pres.



EASTSIDE’S BIRTHDAYS

- 19th Tricia Clint Gregorian
- 25th Cheri Brown
- 27th Beth Jepson
- 31st Judy Runion



EASTSIDE’S ANNIVERSARIES

None



PRAYER LIST

Genny Wallace, Berniece Boggs, Jim & Rose Booth, Jim & Caroline Johnston, Courtney Wetzel, Randy Cotton, Cliff Titus, Dale Fassett, Family of Martha Strong, Family of Barry Wood, Pam Headman, Rese Drozd, Candy McCoy, and Joanna Fisher



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RUMMAGE SALE

East Side PRESBYTERIAN rummage and bake sale will be held Friday, Sept 5th 9-3 & Saturday, Sept 6th, 9-1. Becki will be looking for volunteers to get the items ready, work the days of the sale and to work the bake sale on Friday & Sat.



Starting Aug 13th she will be working most days at the church starting at 9 am, and will welcome those who would like to give a few hours of their time. Other workers will be there to help you get started. The work is repetitive and not hard. It might involve, sorting items, washing items, dusting items, matching pieces of jewelry and displaying items on tables. It also involves laughs and fun.

Lunch is furnished Friday, day of the sale, for the workers there. Please see Becki if you are able to donate a few hours before or during the sale. The final day to donate items is August 26th. Any questions please call Becki at 863-258-0863.

THANKS

Dale and Kathy Fassett would like to thank everyone for all the concerns and prayers Dale is receiving from everyone. They really lift his spirits and a great help.



CHURCH PICNIC



We will be celebrating worship and our church picnic on Sunday, August 17th with worship at 10am and lunch immediately after at the Overlook Pavilion in Lakeshore park. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share and your own place settings and an extra chair if needed. Sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Contact Ruth Allen with any questions.

CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE

The Merging Committee of Unity Presbyterian has begun to plan and to prepare to time for Trinity and East Side to Celebrate their communities. Trinity will gather from 11am—1pm on September 13th and East Side will gather from 11am—1pm on September 27th. Each Church will have pictures, memorabilia, food, music and a time for telling stories in their sanctuaries. Please contact the members of the committee if you would like to contribute with old pictures, items or a story, written or spoken and/or sorting. The committee members are:



Craig Reiter

Mary Belding

Pam Bloom

Beth Dougherty

Cathy Burnham

Rosemary Peck

Edie Makynen

Ellen Jacobs



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2025 per capita is \$40.00

REPORT FROM MERGING COMMITTEE

What an exciting time!

- We have had three months coming together learning to share the work of our church in worship, fellowship and outreach.
- The Merging Committee has begun its work. A Vision Statement for the Unity Presbyterian Church will be presented at our next Town Hall meeting for your approval.
- We will be moving forward with new ways to be church: looking at By-Laws, Policies and Guidelines, and committees.
- We shall continue to grow together as the body of Christ, sharing the love of Christ with each other and our neighbors.



Shalom,

Mary Belding for the Merging Committee

FROM THE EDEN PROJECT

Zucchini, garlic, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and beans- Oh My!

Our crops are beginning to be available. We share with our neighbors, and will be sharing with our congregation as crops come in.

Much thanks to those who have helped with weeding and watering.

We are grateful for the opportunity to share.



ROOFS UPDATE

The pitched roof on East Side's building has been replaced.

The flat roof on Trinity's education and fellowship wing has begun to leak from deterioration. J Burns Roofing will be replacing the flat roof in September or October. Any contributions to the Capital Improvement Fund will offset the money taken from our investments to cover the costs.



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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This time of year finds many of us gathering in the fruits of our summer's labors from our gardens. We search the tomato plants for the tomatoes which will become soups, salsas and salads. We scour the corn stalks for the ears of corn which we will steam roast or stew. We rifle through the ground for the potatoes and carrots which will be canned or frozen. We examine the plants for cucumbers and zucchinis which will be pickled or sliced. We will spend countless hours harvesting the fruits of our gardens and preparing them for storage and maybe even enjoying them for dinner or two.

Just as we gather in the fruits of our gardens, so too does God gather in the fruits of his garden. *God set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.* The whole purpose for the incarnation of Christ was the mission of God to gather up all the lost things in heaven and in earth and to find them and keep them in Christ Jesus. Just as we gather up the harvest into our pantries, so too does God gather up the harvest into Christ Jesus.

But, being a missional church can have many misconstructions and misinformations. We exist not for our own personal pet mission projects, but we exist solely for the mission of God. To quote a teacher of mine The Rev. Dr. Craig Van Gelder, "The church of God does not have a mission, but rather the mission of God has a church." We are called and equipped not for *our* missions to the world, but for *God's* mission to the world. *To gather up all things in Christ Jesus*, that was the mission of God given to Christ and that is the mission Christ gives to us.

But we only have to examine ourselves and our communities for just a few minutes to realize that we as one branch of the Church universal have drifted away from being participants in God's mission to the world into becoming something else. Either we as a community share in the Pastor's or Elder's pet mission projects, or maybe even worse, we as a community have no mission projects at all. The error we find ourselves in is that we do not quite often as we should share in *God's* mission, either by being in the wrong mission, or no mission at all.

This means the correct question for us is not how do we grow the church; the correct question is what is God doing here and now in this community and how do we as his people called and equipped get in on what God is doing? We are the Church created by God to be partners in his work. We are not created by God to be a church unto ourselves but created by God to be co-workers with God. The moment we leave that place is the moment we foolishly imitate the sin of Adam and Eve and try to be "like" God instead of being God's creatures. If God's mission has a church, then the correct question is what is God already doing and how do we through God's gracious gifts contribute and share in that mission? It is not what do we want and how do we do it?

So, my brothers and sisters in Christ, we are not an attractional church but a **missional** church. And we are not any missional church, but a Church created and equipped for **God's** mission; *to gather up all things in Christ Jesus*; not a mission of our own creation. So this harvest season each of us as an individual and as a community could have some false purposes to leave behind and a new Godly and True purpose to take up and embrace. The Gospel message still rings true that we have the Son and the Spirit to lead and equip us to make such a change. The limiting factor lies if we are open enough to God to allow the work to be done; the factor lies in our Faith. Let us seize this opportunity to grow more and more in Faith as we let go and as we take hold. Let us be the "harvested" as we begin "harvesting." Amen.

In Christ,

Rev. Mark