

Trinity Times

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Snow is coming. Nothing creates a sense of expectation like hearing those fabled words from a professional meteorologist or from a friend that watches the Weather Channel. How much are we supposed to get? Do I have enough groceries? Will we have school? Do I have gas for the snow blower? Do we have to travel? The excitement and trepidation build in our hearts and minds as we prepare for the Lake Effect to interrupt our routines and normalcy. The concerns and the anxiety increase until the last snowflake has fallen, and the sun shines once again.

Just as it is with coming snow, so too is it with the coming days of God. We also have a sense of expectation hearing the Word of God and its promises of future action. *'Behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'that I will perform that good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah.'* The promised action of God is coming, it is on the way, it is immanent, and we must prepare accordingly. The excitement builds in our hearts and minds as we prepare not for a Nor'easter, but for the visit of God. The status quo of our lives is disturbed and interrupted by the new thing that God is doing, the thing promised to Israel and Judah is almost here.

But what is that new thing that God promised and is almost here? *In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness.* The new thing that God is doing and is almost here is the coming of a righteous King from the bloodline of David, the great King of the Hebrew people. The name of that coming righteous King from the bloodline of David, heir to his family's throne and ruler of his people is Jesus of Nazareth.

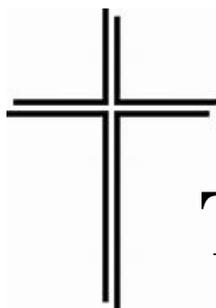
But for us Americans and for us Gentiles, the new thing we should be expecting is that Jesus is not just King of Israel, but King of the entire world. *He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.* The King of Israel is in fact King of all creation; and his rule will not be one of tyranny and corruption, but He shall execute justice and rightness in the earth. No longer a leader or politician seeking to force policies and compliance but a giver of liberty and freedom. No longer a monarch or dictator seeking fortune on the backs of the masses of people, but a right ruler that lives to empower people to live the True life of loving God and each other. This is what is coming and what we need to be expecting.

Can we think of any more needed forces in our world at this time that the freedom and security that Jesus can provide over all creation? *In those days Judah will be saved, And Jerusalem will dwell safely.* In Jeremiah's time of invasion, exile and corruption, the hope offered by the prophet was the balm for the people of the land. Freedom instead of occupation by the Babylonians. Safety instead of Monarchial incompetence. Do we not need the same? Freedom instead of slavery to sin, death, and the fallen world. Safety instead of pandemic anxieties, economic inflation, and nuclear intimidation. This is what God through Jeremiah offers us, a righteous King with a righteous Kingdom.

We are reminded during this Advent Season that Jesus is coming, to execute Justice and Rightness in all creation. This is the sunrise from heaven that break upon the darkness of our world: to illumine, to cleanse, to correct, and to give life. Remember these days are surely coming and expect them with Hope.

In Christ,

Rev. Mark



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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.

Our committees are working diligently.

The Worship and Music Committee (Peg LaDu) will be in charge of decorating the church for Advent. She is always looking for volunteers to usher on Sunday mornings. There will be a Christmas Eve Service.

The Memorial Committee (Nancy Sabo) reported that Memorials have been received honoring Nancy Davis.

The Fellowship Committee (Nancy Sabo) is pleased with the assistance from folks hosting coffee hour.

The Personnel Committee (Richard Fassett, Craig Reiter, Beth Dougherty) recommended that our custodian, Billy Mong, receive a raise. Thanks for your good work, Billy!

The Ministerial Relations committee (Beth Dougherty, Dale Fassett, Pam Bloom, Mary Belding) meets on the third Monday. Please discuss any comments regarding the pastor with them.

The Nominating Committee (Craig Reiter, Mary Belding, David Adams, Barb Beatty, Pauline Headman, Mary Jepson) has been unable to fill vacant positions for deacons. Please prayerfully consider serving on the Board of Deacons.

Property and Finance, Community Outreach and Scrip have notes in this newsletter.

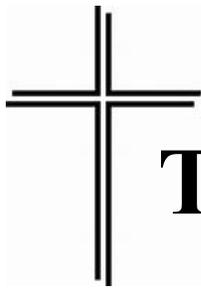
The Yoke Committee (Craig Reiter, Beth Dougherty, Mary Belding) continues working with East Side (Cathy Burnham, Doug Gill, Jim Booth) Rev. Mark and Rev John Gehring-Anders as well as Rev. Dean Myers to determine how we can expeditiously move forward with the process. Please bring any thoughts or questions to any of the committee. We will have further discussions with the congregations.

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

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 8. Carpenter | |
| 7. Mary Magdalene | |
| 6. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John | |
| 5. Thou shall not steal | |
| 4. Aaron, Moses | |
| 3. Raven, dove | |
| 2. Twelve | |
| 1. Sixth day | |
| Page 6 Trivia Answers | |
| 9. Peter, Andrew | |
| 10. Fisherman | |
| 11. Four | |
| 12. Garden of Gethsemane | |
| 13. Twelve | |
| 14. White, red, dark, pale | |
| 15. Thirty | |



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A Note From Property and Finance

As a congregation we are grounded in faith and hope. Hope grows here. Ignite the faith. Let your light shine.

Thank you Dale Fassett for laying down the hallway runners for the winter weather!

Thank you to Norm Jepson for changing the light bulbs in our Fellowship hall!

We have entered into an agreement with GMJ Consulting to provide the bookkeeping and accounting responsibilities of the church.

An enormous thank you goes out to all who continue to donate to the Capital Improvement fund. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Current balance in the Capital Improvement fund: \$9,237.38

Per Capita for 2022 is \$34.91.

God's blessings to all,
Beth Dougherty



A Note From Scrip

The Card Makers have made gift-card-holding greeting cards for those gifts you purchase from Scrip.

Gift cards are always welcome gifts for children, grandchildren and great grandchildren!

Get your Christmas shopping done!

Scrip is back to normal. Cards are available in the parlor before and after church service on Sunday.

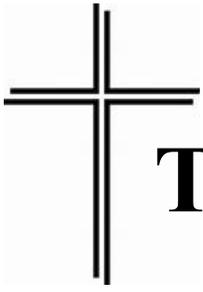
Call or text 440.862.6786, call 964.6073, or e-mail at mbelding237@gmail.com if you miss us there.

Thank you for all the support you are giving to the Scrip program.

At the end of December, we will determine how much Scrip will be able to donate to Trinity based on what we have been able to earn through the program

Blessings from Co-coordinators of Trinity's Scrip Program,
Dee Fassett and Mary Belding





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A Note From Community Outreach

You are the Community Outreach Committee! Trinity's congregation is an incredibly generous group of Christians!

The committee that meets on the third Wednesday of each month brings ideas to you concerning how to share God's love with our community and **you** follow through.

Thank you all for the Christmas gifts for Children and Family Services, the bedding for Catholic Charities, and the hats/mittens/scarves/for the Dragon Outreach through Ashtabula City Schools. ***You are a blessing to Ashtabula.***

All are welcome to join this committee!!

Blessings to you and your loved ones during this Advent season,

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



A Note From the Personnel Committee

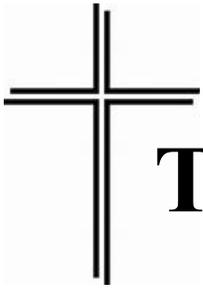
It was stated in last month's newsletter that Dave Adams graciously accepted the Treasurer responsibilities. Safeguards were put in place to protect Dave and the church finances, however, due to the uneasiness of a few of the members of our congregation Dave has made the decision to step down. We are saddened of the events that lead to this decision. Dave is well respected in our church and the community and we appreciate everything he does for Trinity. This unfortunate event has lead us to seek the services of GMJ Consulting to manage the bookkeeping and accounting responsibilities.

We recently completed our custodian, Billy Mongs evaluation. We met with Billy to review and with session's approval agreed to give Billy a \$.25/hr. increase. We are thankful for all of his hard work to keep the church clean and sparkly.

Celebrating the true reason for the season,

Craig Reiter, Rich Fassett, Beth Dougherty





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A Note From the Ministerial Relations Committee (MRC)

We recently completed Mark's yearly evaluation and reviewed with him. Session and the congregation approved Mark's 2022 salary. Thank you Mark for all you due for us.

Please remember that the MRC is available to discuss any concerns that you might have. This committee was formed to assist in providing a healthy and united congregation. If there is something you need to discuss, we will listen and react accordingly. Please give us the opportunity to work with you for a resolution and not risk damaging relationships.

Wishing all a blessed holiday season,

Dale Fassett, 440-228-4119

Pam Bloom, 440-344-7277

Mary Belding, 440-862-6786

Beth Dougherty, 440-661-1416



If you would like to dress up the front of the church with a poinsettia, we ask that you purchase a poinsettia of your choice and place it on the chancel. And-remember to take it home after the Christmas Eve service.



Bible Trivia

- On what day did God create man?
- How many sons did Jacob have?
- Name one of the two birds Noah sent from the Ark.
- Who were Miriam's brothers?
- What is the eighth commandment?
- What are the four Gospels in the New Testament?
- Which woman washed Jesus' feet?
- What was Jesus' profession before he started his ministry?
- Name the first two apostles to follow Jesus.
- What was the profession of Simon Peter before following Jesus?
- How many days was Lazarus dead before Jesus came to visit?
- What is the name of the garden where Jesus went to pray after the Last Supper?
- After Jesus fed 5,000 people, how many baskets of food were left over?
- What color are the four horses in the Book of Revelation?
- How old was Jesus when he started his ministry?

Christmas Word Search



BABY
BETHLEHEM
CAMEL
FRIENDS

GIFTS
GLORIA
GOLD
HOLY

JESUS
JOSEPH
LORD
MARY

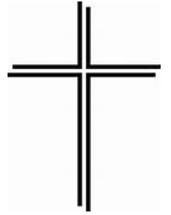
MERRY
NATIVITY
STAR
WISEMEN

Website www.trinityashtabula.org

Email trinitypres04@gmail.com

Elder on call [Peg LaDu 440-993-9271](tel:440-993-9271)

December 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bible Study 10am N/A 7pm	2 Bible Study 7pm	3	4
5 Communion Face-Face Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour Video Worship	6	7 Al-Anon 7pm	8 Bible Study 10am Property and Finance 6:30pm N/A 7pm	9 Bible Study 7pm	10 Brown Bag Lunch packing 10 am	11
12 2¢ A Meal Collection Face-Face Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour Video Worship	13	14 ROMEOS 9am Yoke meeting 7pm Al-Anon 7pm	15 Bible Study 10am Community Outreach 6pm Session 7pm N/A 7pm	16 Bible Study 7pm	17	18
19 Face-Face Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour Video Worship	20 MRC 6:30pm	21 Al-Anon 7pm	22 Clean & Free Anniversary 5pm-8pm N/A 7pm	23	24 Christmas Eve service 7 pm	25  Mark's vacation
26 Face-Face Worship 10:30am Rev John King Coffee Hour Video Worship Mark's vacation	27 Mark's vacation	28 Mark's vacation Al-Anon 7pm	29 Mark's vacation N/A 7pm	30 Mark's vacation	31 Mark's vacation	