

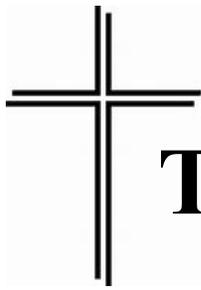
**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1342 WEST PROSPECT ROAD
ASHTABULA OH 44004**

**DECEMBER 2022
NEWSLETTER**



“And the Angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:10-11



Trinity Times

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

If you ever needed to wake up at a certain time, you set an alarm. Many years ago, that was a mechanical device which you had to wind and then a bell rang at the correct time. Then we had the electronic device which was programmed to turn on the radio or a very annoying beeping sound. The problem with this was if the power went out, so did your alarm. Now we have phones with a clock app, which we can set for an almost unlimited number, to remind us to wake up or to do something at a certain time. But we all have alarms to wake us up or remind us to do something.

Just as our alarms alert us to wake up from sleep, Paul is giving the Romans, and us, a spiritual alarm to wake us up from unbelief and disobedience. *Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.* A spiritual sleep can take many faces and names, but perhaps a few call our attention. Spiritually sleeping could be ungratefulness and presumption for all of God's many blessings. Spiritually sleeping could be despair and anxiety about the state of our communities or futures. Spiritually sleeping could be apathy and indifference to our neighbors in a time of inflation and recession. The church in Rome had these struggles, as does the church in Ashtabula; and for this purpose, Paul wanted to sound the alarm on them, and us. Because none of these things, and the many more ways one could be spiritually asleep, are a life living in the light of Jesus Christ.

Paul reminds the Romans, and us, that the Advent or Coming of Christ was closer, *for salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near.* Days have passed, time has come and gone and the glorious coming of Christ is closer now than then. We are ever moving forward in time and therefore closer to the Day of Lord, and the Advent of Jesus Christ. The dawn is growing brighter, and the darkness is shrinking smaller. We should not therefore be hitting the snooze button and falling back asleep spiritually but becoming more and more spiritually awake.

One lives an "awake" life by putting off one's pajamas and putting on the work clothes. *Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy.* The clothes to be taken off are deeds of wickedness and unrighteousness like for the Romans uncontrolled drinking and constant conflict. When we fall asleep these, and many more, are the things that we fall back into. When we wake up, we start doing the things of Christ, like self-control and mutuality.

This Advent season what do we need to take off and put on, if now is the time to awaken? Perhaps the things of the light could be a hopeful outlook and choices or a reconciliation between yourself and an adversary or a peacemaking between enemies. Perhaps it could be a joyous attitude and encouraging others. But perhaps most assuredly, the greatest thing of the light is to love God and to love each other sacrificially. This is what *putting on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires* means. The greatest light to put on is Christ and that means putting on self-sacrificing love. This advent season we all could use less of our self-interested, sinful ways and we all could use more self-giving ways of Christ. The alarm is now sounding, now is the time to wake up, now is the time to put on Christ and live in the light. Now is the time for hope, peace, joy and most importantly, love. Amen.

In Christ,
Rev. Mark

Prayers

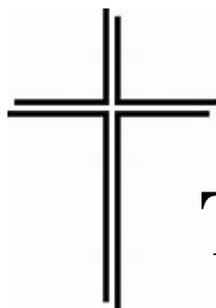
Beverly Cigani, Marion Shipman, Meghan Davis, Dale Fassett, Dick LaDu, Susan Hogle, Barb Jeffries, Bob Niemi, Mary, Mike and Marj Kenny, Kurt Meyer, Pete and Fran Wilson, and Wanda Schwentker, Andre Hanna, Sherri Northrup, and Claudia Hakkarainen.

Many thanks.....

Mike and I thank everyone for your prayers, cards and support for Mike's recent health issues and hospitalizations. All are greatly appreciated.

Mike and Marj Kenny





Trinity Times

A Note From Session

Trinity's committees have been busy.

Community Outreach, with Pam Bloom as chair, continues, with your help, touching our community.

Our annual gift giving for Children and Family Services will be donated by the beginning of December.

The blankets you donated will have been given to Catholic Charities by the end of November.

Through Community Outreach, you continue to donate to Faith Lutheran Food Pantry which is filling a great need in our community and for which they express their gratitude. They have received an additional \$200 toward their Christmas give-away. That give-away will include a \$25 Giant Eagle gift card, 45 of which they purchased from Scrip.

Property and Finance, with Beth Dougherty as Chair,

The budget for 2023 presented by the committee was approved by session.

Safety and Emergency, with Craig Reiter as chair, is researching means to provide safety to our church.

Worship and Music – Peg LaDu and Nancy Sabo are sharing this responsibility.

The church was decorated by several saints on November 26th.

We will have a worship service on Christmas Eve. There will be joint services with East Side on Christmas Day (at Trinity) and New Year's Day (at East Side).

Your assistance with worship by serving as ushers and liturgists is appreciated.

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. The group meets monthly with the pastor.

Yoke, Craig Reiter, Beth Dougherty, and Mary Belding will meet as needed with East Side (Cathy Burnham, Doug Gill, and Jim Booth). Please continue to pray with us for success in this endeavor.

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.

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

Property and Finance



2022 per capita is \$34.91

Take time to reflect on our Mission Statement:

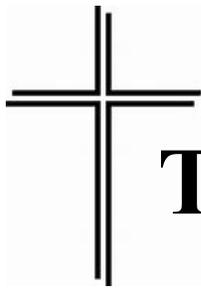
As the body of Christ, we are a people of faith called to represent Christ in our community and world. We are committed to growing faithfulness to God by engaging in joyful worship, exciting learning, supportive fellowship, and faithful service.

Continue keeping the committee in your prayers God continues to lead us to do amazing things.

Thank you for your support!

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

The MRC will be collecting for Mark's Christmas gift. If interested, please give your donation to Mary Belding, Pam Bloom, Dale Fassett, or Beth Dougherty. Donations will be collected through December 18.



Trinity Times

At the October 30, 2022 Congregational Meeting, three items were voted on and approved by the congregation.

The congregation elected the slate of officers as presented by the nominating Committee.

Elders elected for the Class of 2025: Richard Fassett (second term), Ruth Allen and Hobart Shiflet.

Deacons elected for the Classes of 2023 and 2025: Pat Strock (to fill 1 year term vacated by Jeff Montgomery), Barb Beatty, and Karen Reiter.

By-Law changes

section 2.3 At its regular meeting in January, the session shall elect a stated Clerk, ~~Treasurer, and~~ Financial Secretary, and *approve continued use of the Certified Public Accountant as treasurer.*

Section 4.3 The officers of the corporation shall be a president, a secretary and a treasurer. The president shall be chosen ~~from~~ by the members of the session and elected at the regular meeting of the session in January. The president shall also be the chairperson of the Finance and Property Committee. The treasurer shall also be elected by the session in January, ~~may or may not be a member of the session, and shall be a member of the Finance and Property Committee unless a certified Public Accountant is filling the position of treasurer, in which case Session would approve continued employment of the CPA.~~ The secretary of the corporation shall be the Clerk of Session.

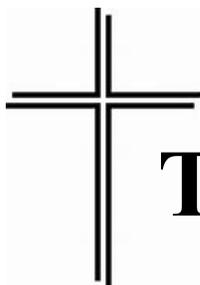
Rev. Mong's Terms of Call.

The Pastor's Terms of Call were presented by Beth Dougherty, member of the Ministerial Relations Committee and Chair of the Finance Committee:

She explained that the Pastor's review had been completed by the MRC and representatives from East Side Presbyterian Church, and approved by session.

	2023 Increase	2023 ½ Salary	2023 Total Salary
Minister's Expenses	8.9%		
Salary + Housing	\$ 4,994.48	\$30,556.13	\$61,112.26
Housing			
Study		500.00	1,000.00
Automobile		1,750.00	3,500
Medical PPO 29%	\$303.04	8,861.28	17,722.56
Defined Benefit Pension 8.5%		2,385.00	4,770.00
Death and Disability 1%		280.59	561.18
Temporary Disability 0.5%		140.30	280.60
Dental		724.08	1,448.16
Vision		78.82	157.64
Cell Phone		300.00	600.00
Total	\$5,297.52	\$45,576.20	\$91,152.40

Mary Belding, Clerk of Session



Trinity Times

Community Outreach

Community outreach met Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER: Blanket/Bedding collected will be given to Catholic Charities on November 20th.

DECEMBER: Six Children (3 boys/3 girls) from Children Services have been adopted by Trinity for the Holiday. Tags located in the back of the Church Sanctuary. Items need not be wrapped, tag attached and returned by Sunday, November 27th. If you choose not to shop, consider a cash donation, or purchasing a gift card from Scrip to donate to Children Services or for someone to shop for you.

DECEMBER/JANUARY: The Hat and Mitten Tree will be proudly displayed for donations.

A thank you card was received from G. O. Ministries for the spice drive and cash donation. The card is posted on the bulletin board.

A thank you card was received from individual receiving furniture left from the rummage sale.

Trinity donated \$200 to Faith Lutheran toward food baskets/boxes for 50 families for Christmas Dinners.

Trinity T-Shirts and Sweatshirts will be offered to purchase through January 31, 2023. We appreciate all you do to help this Committee help the community!

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



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.



Option #1

This is a quarter-zip sweatshirt and comes in color shown (Oxford) with purple vinyl.
Price is \$22.00
Sizes available are adult small-adult 3X.
Name brand is Jerzees



Option #2

This is a ladies V-Neck T-Shirt and comes in color shown (Sport Grey) with purple vinyl.
Price is \$17.00
Sizes available are adult small-adult 3X
Name brand is Gildan
*Ladies sizes tend to run a bit small. We suggest you order one size up.



Option #3

This is a regular short-sleeve t-shirt and comes in color shown (Sport Grey) with purple vinyl.
Price is \$15.00
Sizes available are 2T-5T, Youth Extra Small-Youth Extra Large, Adult Small-5X.



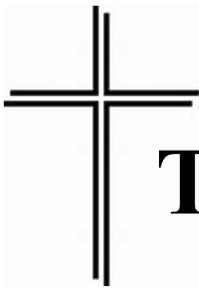
Your word is a lamp
to my feet and a
light to my path
Psalm 119:105

Front of Shirt

Order Yours Today!

A flyer is posted on church bulletin board.
Orders taken until January 29. Make your check out to Trinity Presbyterian Church.

See Nancy Sabo for more information.



Trinity Times

Scrip



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

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.

Please order Christmas gift cards early! Besides our sales to our “regulars”, the sales at Christmas time help make this a viable mission for Trinity.

We have been blessed with large orders from Ashtabula County Fraternal Order of Police for their Shop-with-a-Cop, East Side Presbyterian’s outreach program, and Faith Lutheran Food Pantry’s Christmas Basket. Thanks to our members affiliated with these programs who were contacts assisting with the purchases.

Blessings from Co-coordinators of Trinity’s Scrip Program,

Dee Fassett and Mary Belding

Christmas Fun Facts

- People began to sing Christmas carols around the 13th century making the celebration much brighter.
- Christmas is the shortened version of “Christ’s mass”
- The first Christmas Tree was built way back in 1570.
- Every Christmas in France, people serve 7 main courses and 13 desserts to celebrate the season.
- East Asian countries like Japan, China and South Korea, celebrate Christmas not as a family celebration. People from those countries considered Christmas as a “Feast Of Love” where people spend their time with their partners.
- In Iceland, real Santas do exist. 13 days before Christmas, several troll-looking guys will roam around cities to leave nice gifts for the kids. Children by then would prepare their nicest shoes by the window or outside the door. Every night, there would be a different Yule who visits each home.
- Brooms should be hidden when Christmas came in Norway. Norwegian believes that evil spirits and witches come out on Christmas day to look for brooms to ride on. Therefore, it had become a tradition in Norway to hide the brooms so they will not be stolen.
- People in Venezuela wear roller skates on the way to church every Christmas Eve. They even close the roads to cater to this unique tradition.
- In Colombia, people place paper lanterns and light a candle to mark the start of the Christmas season.
- The solid proof of Christmas being celebrated for the first time is through a pamphlet found that states the said event. The said pamphlet bears the phrase “25 December: Natus Christus in Betleem Judeae”. That means the birth of Christ from Bethlehem, Judea is December 25.
- New Englanders were prohibited to celebrate Christmas by Governor Bradford. People to be caught will render community services, pay fines, or will go to jail depending on the severity of the “crime”.
- Puritans forbade Christmas, considering it too pagan. Governor Bradford actually threatened New Englanders with work, jail or fines if they were caught observing Christmas.
- Saint Nicholas was a Bishop in the fourth century who lived in Turkey. According to the stories, he was a very rich man. Instead of spending his fortunes for luxuries, he instead secretly give gifts to people in need. Hence, the belief of Santa giving gifts on Christmas.
- Hanging stocking on Christmas for gifts from Santa also started on stories about Saint Nicholas.
- Saint Nicholas is not just famous for children but also with sailors. It was rumored that he helped a group of sailors one stormy night by calming the waves of the sea.
- Santa Claus is Father Christmas in England.
- Santa Claus is Kriss Kringle in Germany.
- Le Befana is what they call Santa in Italy.

Trinity Times

Sponsored by the Ashtabula Foundation, The film, "Engineering Tragedy: The Ashtabula Train Disaster" will be shown at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Dec. 11 at the Lakeside High School Performing Arts Center. Attendees are asked to register for free tickets at Eventbrite.

*The documentary features the history of the 1876 train disaster and will also air on WQLN-TV, PBS at 8 p.m. Dec. 29, the 146th anniversary of the train and bridge disaster.

*That snowy night when the bridge over the Ashtabula River collapsed under the weight.

*Dozens were killed in the collapse and even more when fire broke out, including famous hymn writer, Philip P. Bliss, who is buried in Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Ashtabula.

The History of Hymns, Philip P. Bliss and His Connection to Ashtabula From: Then Sings My Soul by Robert J. Morgan

JESUS LOVES EVEN ME Music and Lyrics by Philip P. Bliss

Philip Bliss was born in a Pennsylvania log cabin where his father led in daily prayer and where music was the primary entertainment. As a result, the lad found himself drawn to both the Lord Jesus and to music at an early age.

When he was ten, Philip sold vegetables door to door. Approaching an elegant home, he heard a sort of music he'd never heard before. Dropping his vegetables, he scaled the fence and slipped unseen into the parlor. A woman was playing something new and strange to Philip – a piano. He was enthralled. When she stopped, he exclaimed, "O lady, please play some more!"

Spinning on her stool, the alarmed woman saw the little urchin standing there. "Get out of here with your big, bare feet!" she cried. Philip beat a fast retreat, but the sounds of that piano stayed with him and deepened his desire to become a musician.

The next year, he left home to work in lumber camps, earning nine dollars a month as assistant cook. Later he became a log cutter and sawmill worker, but he never lost his burden for music.

In 1859, Philip married Lucy Young and spent a year working her father's farm. Lucy encouraged his dreams, and her grandmother provided funds for classes at a nearby music school. The next year, armed with a melodeon, Philip mounted his horse, Old Fanny, and began traveling place to place, teaching music and leading singing schools. In 1864, he sold his first song to a publishing company. Within a remarkably short time, he was one of America's foremost writers of gospel hymns.

In 1870, Philip joined the staff of the First Congregational Church in Chicago. One evening, very weary, Philip found inner refreshment while meditating on Romans 5:5. "The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit." Picking up pen and paper, he began writing: "I am so glad that my Father in heaven tells of His love in the book He has given...." This being the first line of the hymn, **Jesus Loves Even Me**.

I WILL SING OF MY REDEEMER Written by Philip P. Bliss and Music by James McGranahan

In March, 1874, Philip became the song leader and children's director for the evangelistic campaigns of Major Daniel W. Whittle. All the while, Philip was penning some of America's favorite gospel songs.

By the end of 1876, Philip needed a break. He had just written the music to "**It is Well With My Soul**," and finished a whirlwind tour of meetings with Major Whittle. While he and his wife Lucy were spending Christmas holidays with his family in Pennsylvania, a telegram arrived requesting they come to Chicago to sing at Moody's Tabernacle on the last Sunday of the year.

On December 29, 1876, leaving their two small children with Philip's mother, they boarded the *Pacific Express*. The snow was blinding, and the eleven-coach train was running about three hours late. About eight o'clock that night as the train creaked over a chasm in *Ashtabula, Ohio*, the trestle bridge collapsed. The engine reached solid ground on the other side of the bridge, but the other cars plunged 75 feet into the ravine.

Philip survived the crash and crawled out through a window. But within moments, fire broke out, and Lucy was still inside, pinned under the twisted metal of the iron seats. The other survivors urged Philip not to crawl back into the flaming wreckage. "If I cannot save her, I will perish with her," he shouted plunging into the fiery car. Both Philip and Lucy died. He was thirty-eight.

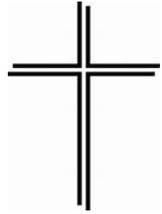
Philip's trunk finally arrived in Chicago safely. In it were found the words to the last hymn he had written, one of which was, **I Will Sing of My Redeemer**.

Philip and Lucy Bliss, along with 23 victims of the local train disaster were buried in a common grave marked by a cenotaph in the Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Ashtabula, Ohio. Ninety-two of the 160 passengers are believed to have been killed in what became known as the *Ashtabula River Railroad Disaster*.

It is believed that the cemetery is haunted by the victims of this disaster, especially by the engineer who designed the bridge and committed suicide a month after the disaster.

Philip P. Bliss





DECEMBER 2022

Website www.trinityashtabula.org

Email trinitypres04@gmail.com

Elder On Call: **Kathy Fassett 440-997-7490**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Church Office Hours Monday and Friday 10 am-12 pm Wednesday 9:30 am-11:30 am	The Lions Club will hold a breakfast the first Saturday each month from 9am-noon			1 Bible Study 7pm	2 Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	3 Lions Club Breakfast 9am-12 noon Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
4 Face-Face Worship 9:30 am Video Worship Communion	5	6 Knitting Group - East Side 10-12 noon Al-Anon 7 pm	7 Bible Study 10 am East Side Cardmaking 6:30 pm Clean and Free 7 pm	8 Brown Bag Lunch packing 10 am Bible Study 7pm	9 Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	10 Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
11 2¢ A Meal Collection Face-Face Worship 9:30 am Video Worship	12 Cardmaking 6:30 pm	13 Romeos 9 am Debs Diner Trinity Book Group 5:00 pm @ Beth Adams home Al-Anon 7 pm	14 Bible Study 10am East Side Property and Finance 6:00 pm Session 7:00 pm Clean and Free 7 pm	15 Bible Study 7pm	16 Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	17 Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
18 Face-Face Worship 9:30 am Video Worship	19	20 Knitting Group - East Side 10-12 noon Al-Anon 7 pm	21 Bible Study 10 am East Side Clean and Free 7 pm	22 Bible Study 7pm	23 Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	24 Christmas Eve Service 8 pm Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
25 <i>Happy Birthday Jesus!</i> Face-Face Worship 10:00 am	26 Mark's Vacation	27 Al-Anon 7 pm	28 Trinity Book Group 6 pm Clean and Free 7 pm	29	30 Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	31 Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm

New Year's Day worship will be at 10 AM at East Side. No worship will be at Trinity