

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

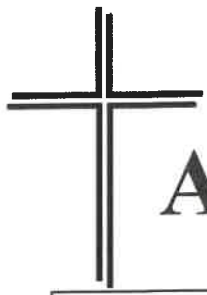
JULY/AUGUST 2026
NEWSLETTER



**“To thee I lift up my eyes,
O thou who art enthroned in the heavens!”**
Psalm 123:1



Picnic



Ashtabula Times

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

ONGOING IN JUNE:

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



CONTINUING MISSIONS:

Blessing Box: Needed: handheld foods, hygiene products for men and women, plastic utensils, toothpaste & toothbrushes.



Lunch Packing for G.O. Ministries.

Way Out Ministries: Soft Sided Bibles



Our continued gratitude for your gracious giving!

NEXT MEETING – TO BE DETERMINED

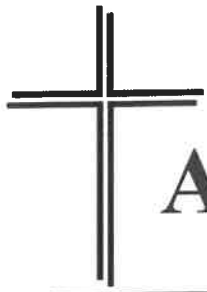
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- 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.

UPDATES

- ✦ The Electronic Sign is in the process of being moved to Unity
- ✦ The Flat Roof is in the process of being replaced
- ✦ The Bank Accounts are in the process of being moved and consolidated
- ✦ The Property Deeds are in the process of being changed to Unity
- ✦ The Payroll and Budget are in the process of being updated.





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MEETING SCHEDULE

- GameDay - July 7th, 21st, August 4th, 18th, 11:30am—1:30pm
- YES You Can Group—every Wednesday, Noon—2pm
- ROMEO's—July 14th, August 11th, 9am at Deb's Diner
- Lunch Packing—July 9th, August 13th 10am in Fellowship Hall
- Deacons—August 9th after worship
- Worship and Nurture—August 10th at 6:30pm
- Session—August 19th at 6:30pm
- Outreach—August 23rd after worship
- Finance—August 10th at 6pm
- Officer Training—August 22nd 10am—Noon



USHER TRAINING

Rev. Mark will meet with all those who have volunteered to serve Unity as Ushers on Saturday, August 29th from 10-11am in the Sanctuary. We will be covering how to greet and welcome people, how to contribute to worship, how to manage the building, and how to cleanup afterward. If you have volunteered to usher please plan on attending, so you can best serve in your role.

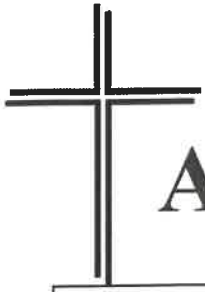


USHERS



Don Berg, Jim & Rose Booth, Jim Johnston, Pat Ford, Missy Tobias, Bob Wilcom, Stephanie Ashley, Kelly Rose and the Families of Plane Crash Victims

PRAYER LIST



Ashtabula Times

NOTES FROM SESSION

- Session will meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm.
- The Minutes were approved.
- The Treasurer's Report was reviewed.
- Birthdays and Anniversaries will no longer be printed in the newsletter. This was a decision of the Session for security reasons.
- Mark met with the Deacons for Communion Training.
- Boundary Training completed for: Beth Jepson, Cathy Burnham, Edie Makynen, Ruth Allen, Mary Belding, Ellen Jacobs and Pam Bloom.
- Sister's Cookies will use the Kitchen and Fellowship Room on December 18, 2026, from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM.
- Cost to move the sign from East Side to Unity was approved and paid.
- Received the Articles of Incorporation from the State.
- Becca Stowell is scheduling Ushers and Ellen Jacobs is scheduling Communion Servers.
- Summer Picnic is August 16th at Lake Shore Park.
- Pastor's Report:
 1. Bible Studies have resumed.
 2. Reviewed visits and calls with Mark.
 3. Mark will be on vacation from June 29th to July 12th.
 4. Concerts in the Park began June 16 in Peleg Park at the East Side Campus.
 5. Rummage Sale will be September 4th and 5th at the East Side Campus.
 6. Kathy Depp was installed on June 7.
 7. Completed orientations for Worship and Nurture, Deacons and Finance.
 8. Officer Training is August 22 from 10:00 AM till Noon.
 9. Prayer Lab is June 20 from 9:00 AM to 11:30AM.
- Served 53 Communion on June 7, 2026.
- Elder on Call is Beth Daughtery and Elder to Deacons is Ruth Allen, August Elder on Call Kathy Fassett.



Cathy Burnham, Clerk of Session

Ashtabula Times

DECORATING GROUP

The Decorating Group of The Unity Presbyterian Church has begun their work inventorying the effects at East Side. They have completed the Attic, Sanctuary, Fellowship Room, and the Narthex. They hope to have the East Campus completed by September and begin to inventory Unity Campus. After both churches have been inventoried, they will begin to discern what could go where.



GOOD FUTURES ACCELERATOR



The Session of Unity is forming a Task Force of five individuals to begin working on discerning and developing the East Campus. The Task Force will be spending some time using the "Good Future Accelerator," a program created by the company *Rooted Good*, specifically created to help churches maximize the use and potential of buildings and properties. More updates and information to come.

OFFICER TRAINING

Rev. Mark will be hosting an officer training for all Elders and Deacons on Saturday, August 22nd from 10am to Noon. Everyone is required to be present as the new policies and procedures are introduced. This will be an annual occurrence moving forward as the officer classes change yearly. Please let Rev. Mark know if you are unable to attend.



Every Wednesday resuming in August at 10am in Sewing Room—studying Revelation

Every Thursday resuming in August at 7pm in Fellowship Hall—studying 1 Samuel

BIBLE STUDIES



Ashtabula Times

SUMMER MUSIC

If you or a group would like to contribute to our Summer worship by playing or singing an Anthem during our weekly worship service from July 5th to September 6th, please contact our Musical Director Nora Giangola at the Church office 440-993-7111.



New Members Are Joining

Rev. Mark will be leading a New Member's Class for everyone interested in joining Unity. The classes will be once a week on Saturday Mornings beginning in September. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact him directly or leave a message in the Church office.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

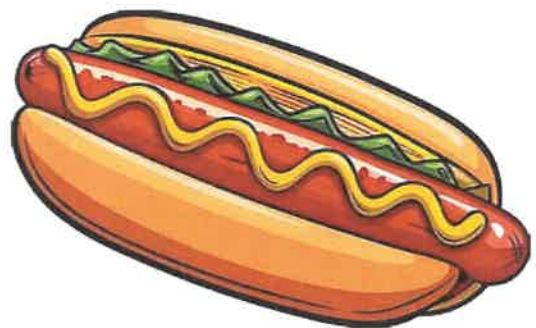
RUMMAGE SALE

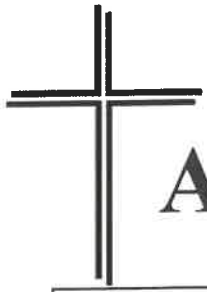
If you have any donations for our September Rummage sale at our East Side Campus we are beginning to take them. Please contact Becki Cleveland to make arrangements for donating gently used items, no clothes accepted. Becki will also be able to on a limited basis arrange pickup. The sale itself will be on Friday, September 4th and Saturday, September 5th. Thanks for your support.



CHURCH PICNIC

The Fellowship Committee will be sponsoring our annual Church Picnic on Sunday, August 16th at the Overlook Pavilion in Lakeshore Park. They will be providing hot dogs and drinks, everyone is asked to please bring a covered dish to share as well as place settings. Also, an extra comfortable chair might be a good idea. We will have worship at 10am and then the pot luck lunch following. We hope to see you there.





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CONCERTS IN THE PARK

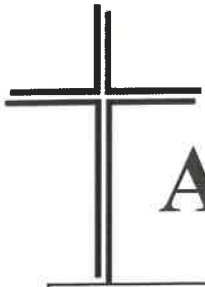


JUNE 30, 2026	CLASSIC KATZ
JULY 7, 2026	BLUES PROJECT
JULY 14, 2026	THE FRANK MORAVCIK BAND
JULY 21, 2026	NICELY DONE
JULY 28, 2026	COOL CHANGE
AUGUST 4, 2026	TAKE II
AUGUST 11, 2026	KEVIN JOHNSTON—CLASSIC COUNTRY
AUGUST 18, 2026	ELVIS

ALL CONCERTS WILL BE HELD AT 7PM. IN THE EVENT OF POOR WEATHER CONDITIONS, THE PROGRAM WILL BE INSIDE AT THE EAST SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ACROSS FROM THE GAZEBO. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE, AND RESTROOMS WILL BE PROVIDED BY EAST SIDE. NO CHAIRS WILL BE FURNISHED, PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN IF DESIRED. WE LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER FUN-FILLED CONCERT SEASON. THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING.

ASHTABULA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
STEPHEN J. MCCLURE, CHAIRMAN
BAMBI PAUCHEL, VICE-CHAIRWOMAN
JOSEPH J. PETE, TRUSTEE
ROBERT S. DILLE, FISCAL OFFICER





Ashtabula Times



My Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

I think most, if not all, of us have a fear of something. A simple search on Google can result in the fear of open, crowded spaces or a fear of confined elevators. Some can have a fear of dogs, snakes, the dark, or even needles. I cannot count the number of types of fears listed on Google. But, I can conclude that we all have a fear of something.

When Jesus was preparing his disciples to be sent out in the Gospel of Matthew, he wanted them to *have no fear of them*. The “them” are those in the Synagogues that would expel or do worse to them or those kings among the Gentiles that would not tolerate them. These are the ones Jesus wants the disciples to not be afraid of. Who is our “them”? Do we have religious leaders in our city that we are afraid of, like some are afraid of heights? Do we have government leaders in our city that we are anxious about, like some are anxious about clowns? What if we don’t have fear of those but have a simple fear of our neighbors? Are they drug dealers, are they gang members, are they Democrats or Republicans? Perhaps this fear is what keeps us from going out at all, fear that “they” will harm us and so we choose safety over obedience.

However, Jesus wants the disciples, which includes us, to proclaim what he says in public: *in the light and on the rooftops*. The whole point of sending out the disciples was the mission to complete: the sick, the poor, the oppressed. How could they complete that mission, if in fear, they stay home? How can we continue Jesus’ work if we are afraid of the neighborhood and the strangers, not neighbors in them? The sick will never find health, the poor will never find satisfaction, the oppressed will never find freedom, if we are afraid of someone or something in the neighborhood.

The simple but impossible task is that we are afraid of being harmed by the neighbors we are trying to help instead of being afraid of disobedience to God; *do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell*. We are simply afraid that the neighbor will hurt me, in all the many various ways our imaginations imagine that can happen instead of being afraid that we might disappoint Christ. Fear of dentists keeps us away from the dentist office, fear of neighbors keeps us away from neighbors and we have disobeyed a direct command from Christ. We fear the neighbor more than we fear or adore or respect Christ.

Yet, Christ reminds the disciples that God cares and protects for all of Creation: *the sparrows are protected and our hairs are counted*. If God can micro-manage the least of creation and the number of our hairs, how much more will God micro-manage the big things like our bodies and souls when we go out? We should trust our ears that remind us of our God’s Providential care for us instead of trusting our suspicious eyes that maybe, just maybe, if I go out “they” might get me.

Perhaps the greatest assurance Jesus gives to the disciples is the reminder that in the eyes and estimation of God, *we are worth more than sparrows*. Not only should this calm our fears but also inspire our mission. God cares for “me” but also for “them”. My friends we exist solely to continue the work Jesus saw as his mission, to heal, to baptize, to teach. That can only happen in Ashtabula, if we go, instead of hiding because we are afraid of Ashtabula and the strangers therein. Who is one neighbor you could reach to? Who is one neighbor that you could connect with? What is one step that stretches your embodied soul to be faithful? Reach, connect and step despite that fear, and that just might be courage. Amen.

In Christ,

Rev. Mark