

Trinity Times

My Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

My grass is starting to turn brown. We are at that point, perhaps a little early in the season, where drought starts to happen and things that depend on the rain start to turn brown and dried up. This is good news for having to mow grass, but perhaps not so good news for our water bills as we must daily water our gardens and fill our swimming pools.

This idea of being dried up and brown can also happen to us. We can easily become dehydrated of our life and light, and even our fluids if the temperature is warm enough, through the difficulties and circumstances of our situations in life. We can lose the passion for a full life. We can lose the ambition to seize the day instead sitting in our easy chairs watching television. We can lose our light and zest for the resurrected life by the increasing chaos of our society. We can lose our faith for discipleship by the overwhelming changes to our life together. The changes in our worship, the adjustments in our community, and the transitions in our families can easily dry us out and leave us without life, light, and love.

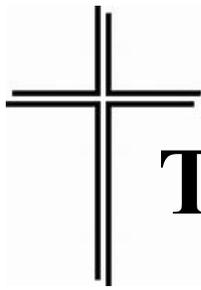
When this happens, we are exactly like Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dried bones, *mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.* Our minds need no stretch of the imagination, to see ourselves like Israel as a people dried up from life, to perceive ourselves as a society where hope is lost, to identify ourselves as a people cut off completely from God and each other. Perhaps the factor that consumes our motivations and energies is the pandemic, or perhaps the social upheaval, or even the poor economy, but we can relate to the valley of dry bones, because like them we are dried up and brown, hopeless, and despairing and isolated and insulated from those we love. We are the dry bones.

Just as God spoke to them through Ezekiel so too it is with us. Ezekiel spoke hope and life into their death, we could use some too. *I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live.* When our Spirits are at their driest and life is scarce and light and hope nonexistent, this is when the God who creates out of nothing breathes life in again. When we are and have nothing, God is at God's greatest, by filling us with the Spirit of Christ and the dead come to life. Bones to Bones with tendons connecting, tissue surrounding organs, skin covering muscles and ultimately breath indwelling us, the dried up and brown, is renewed and restored to life. A valley of bones through God's Spirit became a valley of living people; a church of tired and lifeless walking dead, through the same Spirit of God become a community of living and loving people.

Like Israel we also are not left in the valley of defeat. The purpose of resurrecting God's people was so that they might have the place God has chosen for them, *and I will place you on your own soil.* For Israel that soil was the promised land of Canaan, which Babylon had conquered. For us it might not be literal soil, perhaps it will be, but the soil to which God has chosen for us is the Kingdom of God. The entire creation is now God's soil and all of ground and water and sky is once again returned into and under the Power and Reign of God; to give each of us a place and a purpose in this world. As God's stewards, we have been given life to be responsible and care for that life before God, to bring God glory.

That Glory to which we are destined for is a knowledge that Yahweh is God, and we are merely his creatures, *then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.* We are not self-created, self-determined, or self-ruled, we are creatures in the hands of a Loving and Almighty Creator. When we are brought back to life by the Breath of the Creator, the only conclusion we may have is that God alone creates; we did not bring ourselves back to life. When we are given purpose and hope by the Election of the Creator, the only knowledge we may have is that God alone determines and chooses; we did not determine and choose our places. When we are given discipleship and community by the Love of the Creator, the only attitude we may have is that God alone rules and sustains; we do not rule or sustain God. God is Creator and we are created.

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My friends, we can all experience and relate to the valley of bones and perhaps that metaphor best describes us right now. But the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that God will put Jesus' Spirit within us, and we will live, and we will be given a place and position in God's Kingdom. Through Grace and Power God can turn us from a corpse pile to a living, and loving community. God did it for Israel, God is doing and will continue to do it for his Church. All for purpose that all might know that Yahweh is God and God is for us. Let us begin our resurrection from dried up and hopeless bones, to living, and joyous disciples on their way to God's Glory. Amen.

In Christ,
Rev. Mark

A Note From Session

What a joy to be worshipping together again! Soon we will have fewer restrictions for our worship and meetings.

Session worked through a plan as how to move forward with fewer restrictions. One half of the sanctuary will remain taped off for those who want to maintain social distancing. Masks will be worn there. The other half of the sanctuary will have no mask or distancing requirements. Please be respectful of those who wish to remain cautious.

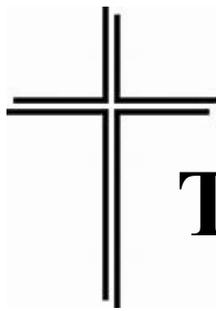
Our Annual Congregational Meeting was held May 23rd. The Nominating Committee was elected. Craig Reiter and Mary Belding will serve as elder co-chairs, Deacon David Adams, and Members-at Large: Barb Beatty, Pauline Headman, and Mary Jepson will provide a slate of officers at the October Congregational Meeting.

Other business conducted included passing motions approved by Session from committees. These included:

1. Approval of a bid from Metcalf Glass for replacing the sanctuary doors at a cost of \$3180.00. The funds will come from the Capital Improvement Fund as available.
2. Approval of a bid from Lake Erie Seamless Gutter to replace the gutters on the sanctuary for \$2195.00. The funds will come from the Capital Improvement Fund as available.
3. Approval of a bid from J&W Paint for replacement of all blinds in the church with the exception of the offices for \$3680.00. These funds have been donated to the Memorial Fund.
4. Approval of a bid from Kaplan & Co. for a replacement range for the kitchen at a cost of \$2655.00 to cover delivery, installation, an extra oven rack, and removal of the old range. The funds are available in the Memorial Fund.

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



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A Note From Scrip

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

Dee and Mary greatly appreciate our “regular” customers and thank all who participate.

Call or text 440.862.6786, call 964.6073, or e-mail at mbelding237@gmail.com.

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

Dee Fassett and Mary Belding



Trinity Eden Project

Our beds have been cleaned up, plants and seeds have been started, water has been turned on, and the sun is shining!

Thanks to Dee Fassett, Dale and Kathy Fassett, and Terry Karvonen for all their assistance.

Last year was a sparse year, and we filled a couple of the beds with perennial flowers. We also gladly shared one of the garden’s beds with one of our neighbors.

I have already had other neighbors stop by this spring to talk about the garden and how much they enjoy it.

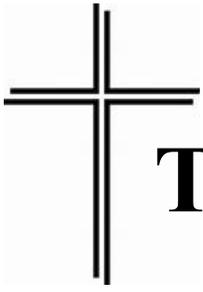
The benches that were provided as a memorial to the Hoffmans by Beth and David Adams are often in use by passers-by.

The garden reaches into the neighborhood helping us share the love of Christ with our neighbors.

Blessings,

Mary Belding and Joyce Kren





Trinity Times

A Note from Community Outreach

Thank you to all who donated goods, cash, and hand-made blankets for our baby shower gifts to HIP at GO Ministry. As always, Trinity is generous!

Trinity, through the Community Outreach Committee, continues to share the love of Christ through many endeavors.

We have adopted a calendar of events for the year which include:

Throughout June we will be accepting donations of gently-used and new shoes for GO Ministries. They can be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall.

In July we will be accepting back-to-school donations for AACCS. We will have more information as to what specific needs are.

In September we will be gathering donations for Spices and other kitchen needs for GO's kitchen. A full list of needs will be available later.

October – Trinity Neighborhood Halloween Party

November/December -Christmas donations TBD

We continue to support the Faith Lutheran Food Pantry with your contributions. We asked them if there are specific needs. They gave us this list:

Bars of soap, Pudding cups, Fruit cups, Jelly- small jars, Canned meat, Anything shelf-stable – boxed and canned, Personal hygiene items – shampoo, deodorant, tooth paste, tooth brushes.

We also continue to support Youth Opportunities with Giant Eagle Scrip cards and Plymouth United Methodist Church food pantry with cash for meal boxes.

Thank you for your contributions throughout the year.

If you have any suggestions for where we can reach out, please let us know.

All are welcome to join this committee!!

Barb, Dee, Joyce, Kathy, Mark, Mary, Nancy, Pam, and Ruth Ann





Trinity Times

Grateful...Thankful...Blessed...

Property and Finance Committee

*God has a plan for everyone and everything. That includes you, and it includes
Trinity Presbyterian Church. None of us can fully know God's plan—the best we can do
is pray and listen for clarity.*

In the last newsletter we were preparing for the town hall meeting which would give us a clear vision on projects that will fall under the guidance of the Property and Finance committee. Below is a wish list from this meeting:

New blinds - \$3,680	Sanctuary doors (Southeast corner of sanctuary- \$3,180.00
Gutters - \$2,195.00	Masonry repairs
Replace chancel carpet	Lights/Fans/Ceiling-Fellowship hall
Kitchen up to code	Flat roof-change to pitched roof
Heat in choir room	New drinking fountain
Drains-will be a long-term project, possibly room by room	

Our Capital Improvement campaign has been reignited! The first three projects that we have quotes for and were brought to the congregation for approval are new blinds, gutters, and replacement of the sanctuary doors. Amounts of the quotes are listed above. These three projects total \$9,055.00. Our current balance is \$1,622.38. In 2020 we accomplished so much-let's keep this wheel moving forward! Please consider supporting the 2021 projects.

Per Capita for 2021 is \$32.41.

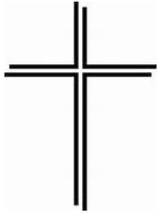
*The Property and Finance committee
would like to thank everyone for your continued support.*

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

(2 Corinthians 9:6)

God's blessings to all,

Beth Dougherty



June 2021



Website www.trinityashtabula.org
 Email trinitypres04@gmail.com
 Deacon On Call: Karen Reiter 440-992-8658
 Elder On Call: Josh Hall 216-952-6290

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Deacons Mtg 6:30pm	3	4	5
6 Communion Face-Face Worship 10:30am Video Worship	7	8 Al-Anon 7pm	9 Property and Finance 6:30pm N/A 7pm	10 Bible Study 7pm	11	12
13 2¢ A Meal Face-Face Worship 10:30am Video Worship		15 Al-Anon 7pm	16 Community Outreach 6pm Session 7pm N/A 7pm	17 Bible Study 7pm	18	19
20  Face-Face Worship 10:30am Video Worship	21  MRC Mtg 6:30pm	22 Al-Anon 7pm	23 N/A 7pm	24 Bible Study 7pm	25	26
27 Face-Face Worship 10:30am Video Worship	28	29 Al-Anon 7pm	30 N/A 7pm			