

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

**JUNE 2026**

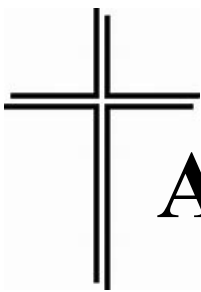
**NEWSLETTER**



“It will be reckoned to us who believe in him  
that raised from the dead Jesus our  
Lord, who was put to death for our trespasses  
and raised for our justification. “

Romans 4:24-25





# Ashtabula Times

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### **COMPLETED IN MAY:**

- Unity participated in Ashtabula City Clean-up Day on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Lots of trash was collected and a good time was had garnishing gloves and garbage bags.
- Ladies Night at Old Mill Winery was held May 12<sup>th</sup> with many happy ladies in attendance.
- The annual Baby Shower for Independent Parents/G.O. Ministries was held following worship on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. This collection will continue through Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to all that have contributed!



### **UPCOMING FOR JUNE:**

- G.O. Ministries school supply give away is August 1<sup>st</sup>. We will begin 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!***

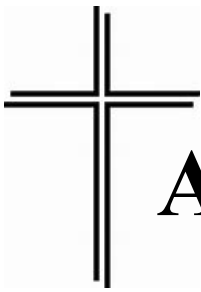
**NEXT MEETING – June 28<sup>th</sup> following worship**

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

- RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program) For information visit [ashtabulagiveback.org](http://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.



Pam Bloom, Moderator of Outreach Committee



# Ashtabula Times

## MEETING SCHEDULE

- GameDay - June 9th and 23rd, 11:30am—1:30pm
- YES You Can Group—every Wednesday, Noon—2pm
- ROMEO's—June 9th, 9am at Deb's Diner
- Lunch Packing—June 11th, 10am in Fellowship Hall
- Deacons—June 14th after worship
- Worship and Music—June 8th at 6:30pm
- Session—June 17th at 6:30pm
- Outreach—June 28th after worship
- Finance—June 8th at 6pm



As both churches have officially closed and Unity has officially opened, all the Committees from both churches have been dissolved and the new committees are in the process of being formed, oriented and commissioned to their specific tasks delegated by Session. If you served on a committee in the past, we are grateful for your service and give glory to God for your accomplishments. The Elders serving as moderators of the new committees may be in contact with you as things continue to move forward. Thanks for your graciousness and understanding in this process.

## UNITY'S BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd Bob Wetzel
- 11th Rosemary Peck
- 25th Russ Makynen
- 25th Bonnie Pocza
- 27th Sandra Brown

## UNITY'S ANNIVERSARIES

- 8th Ed & Ruth Best



## PRAYER LIST

Don Berg, Genny Wallace, Jim & Rose Booth, Jim Johnston, Pat Ford, Shirley Truesdell, Missy Tobias, Evon Glass, Pati Rockwell, Lori and Sherry, Carry Masek, Bob Makynen and Family, Sue, and Debra Phelps and Family



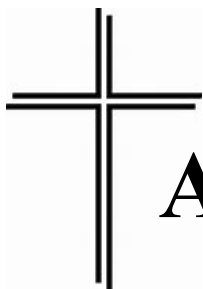
# Ashtabula Times

## NOTES FROM SESSION

- The Manual of Operations was approved.
- The Congregational Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved.
- Officers elected: President-Beth Dougherty; Financial Secretary-Nora Giangola, Treasurer-Rebecca Shoemaker, Capital Business Solutions and Renee Incorvati, Bookkeeper; Clerk-Cathy Burnham.
- Committee Chairs: Fellowship-Edie Makynen; Finance-Beth Dougherty; Nominating-Beth Jepson; Outreach-Pam Bloom; Property-Craig Reiter; Relations-Ellen Jacobs and Worship and Nurture-Cathy Burnham.
- Commissioners to Presbytery: Mary Belding and Hobart Shiflet.
- Session will meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm.
- The Treasurer's Report was reviewed.
- Pastor's Report:
  1. Bible Studies have resumed.
  2. Reviewed visits and calls with Mark.
  3. Mark continues to serve as Moderator of the Coordinating Cabinet and serves on the Moderator's Committee and Coordinating Cabinet.
  4. The first Congregational Meeting was April 19th, and officers were installed on April 26th .
  6. Committee, Usher and Officer Training, is planned for June.
  7. Approved vacation for Mark from June 29th to July 12th.
  8. Concerts in the Park begin in June in Peleg Park at the East Campus.
  9. Rummage Sale will be September 4th and 5th at the East Campus.
- Merging Committee dissolved. Approved the dual budget.
- New doors were installed at the church. Sixty-five were served Communion on May 3.
- Elder on Call is Pam Bloom and Elder to Deacons is Ruth Allen



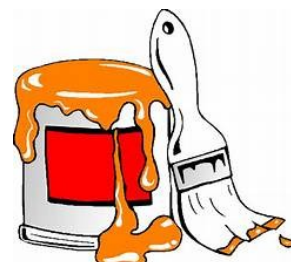
Cathy Burnham, Clerk of Session



# Ashtabula Times

## DECORATING GROUP

The Session of Unity is forming a Task Force of four individuals to begin working on combining the items of both churches and re-decorating the building and property. The process will continue throughout the year as the seasons change and the needs of the congregation unfold. Please be patient and understanding as changes will be coming to the sanctuary, building and property.



## GOOD FUTURE 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.

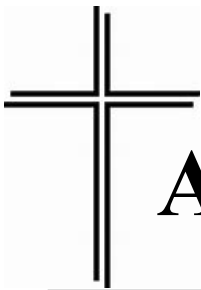


## BIBLE STUDIES



Every Wednesday at 10am in Sewing Room—studying Revelation

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



# 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 May 31st to September 6th, please contact our Musical Director Nora Giangola at the Church office 440-993-7111.



*New Members Are Joining*

## NEW MEMBER CLASS

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.

## 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.



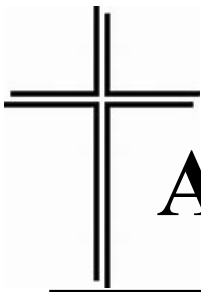
## PRAYER LAB



On Saturday, June 20, 2026, Matt Skolnik, General Presbyter for the Presbytery of The Western Reserve, has invited Unity parishioners to a Prayer Lab to assist those interested in learning about prayer and gaining insight into speaking with God and Jesus.

The event will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude by noon.

A sign-up sheet will be on the table in the Fellowship Hall underneath the flag. If you would like more information, please see Jessie Smith, or call 440-992-1634.



# Ashtabula Times

## CONCERTS IN THE PARK

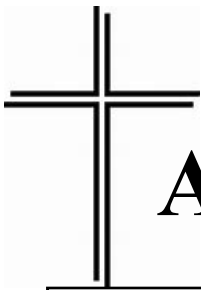


JUNE 16, 2026	DENNIS FORD
JUNE 23, 2026	SHERRY CORNELL 7-8PM DANNY PUGLIESE 8-9PM
JUNE 30, 2026	CLASSIC KATZ
JULY 7, 2026	BLUES PROJECT
JULY 14, 2026	THE FRANK MORAVCIK BAND
JULY 21, 2026	NICELY DONE
JULY 28, 2026	COOL CHANGE
AUGUST 4, 2026	TAKE II
AUGUST 11, 2026	KEVIN JOHNSTON—CLASSIC COUNTRY
AUGUST 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,

Now that Memorial Day has passed us, we find ourselves fully consumed with planting and working in gardens and flower beds. After raking the leaves, pulling the weeds and laying the mulch, we can plant the vegetable starters or the seeds of our favorite annuals. Whether you have one flower bed or twenty, now is the planting season if we want crops or flowers come August or September.

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus is planting God's garden and in the parable of the Sower, Jesus is planting God's Word into human hearts. From the beginning of the Gospel, Jesus begins His work of implanting God's Gospel in the hearts of the disciples and the crowds. We find ourselves in this chapter with Jesus speaking a message that most, including the disciples, fail to understand and even requires Jesus to interpret that message privately to the disciples, hence the "let those who can hear, hear." So, it also is with us. For six weeks now, Jesus has been cultivating us His new garden of people, hard at work to prepare the soil of our hearts to produce not lettuce or beans, but love and covenant faithfulness.

What kind of soil are you? Perhaps your heart is like the rocky soil of the parable, too hard for God to dig into, too stubborn to change, or even too lifeless to grow anything. Jesus would explain these hearts as so hard that Satan can steal God's Word before it can do anything. Still today, the human heart can be and often is hard to what God wants to do. We can be inflexible, mired in comfortable familiarity, and pulling against the inertia of the ways we have always done things. But the only result of the hard heart is that God's Kingdom is stolen from us, perhaps because in our stubbornness we never really wanted it and instead wanted a different kingdom, our own.

What about the heart that is choked with care and desire? These are also too common in the Church today. More concerned with having enough resources to pay the bills, the church's and our own, we focus solely on the institutional needs and worries instead of people and God's concerns. Endowments are used to maintain bureaucracy instead of nurturing wholeness in people. We care more about coffee and toilet paper than mission and evangelism, and these things choke out what God is trying to grow. We are hearts filled with weeds instead of hearts filled with love and God's Word is choked out.

What about the heart that is shallow? These are the people that are committed and devoted when it profits them but disappear or leave when the difficult tasks of being in this different community become risky or costly. They are here for Easter Sunrise Service but not to feed or tend the homeless. They are here for Christmas Eve candles but missing when discerning issues of justice or social witness. They are here for the community dinner but missing when tough decisions and sacrifices need to be made. We are shallow hearts when we can procure the greatest goods and services from God, but when devotion or commitment or sacrifice is needed on our part, absence instead is our contribution and God's Word is burned up.

What about the heart that is faithful? You see the soil merely is the receptacle for the seed, the seed provides and creates everything. The soil is merely a pliable and open vessel for the Creator's work. When we listen to the Scriptures and allow the Spirit to shape our worldviews, our principles, our priorities and our practices then we become the soil that God can grow anything in. But the key word is "allow." Do we allow God to do what God chooses to do in us, or do we seek control over the entire enterprise? In the next weeks and seasons ahead of us, what kind of heart will we as a community be and what will Jesus find: stones, weeds, shallowness or faith? What will we grow in the next 6 weeks, 6 months and God willing 6 years, as Jesus' garden to the glory of God? Jesus is still planting what will we allow him to grow? Amen.

In Christ, Rev. Mark