

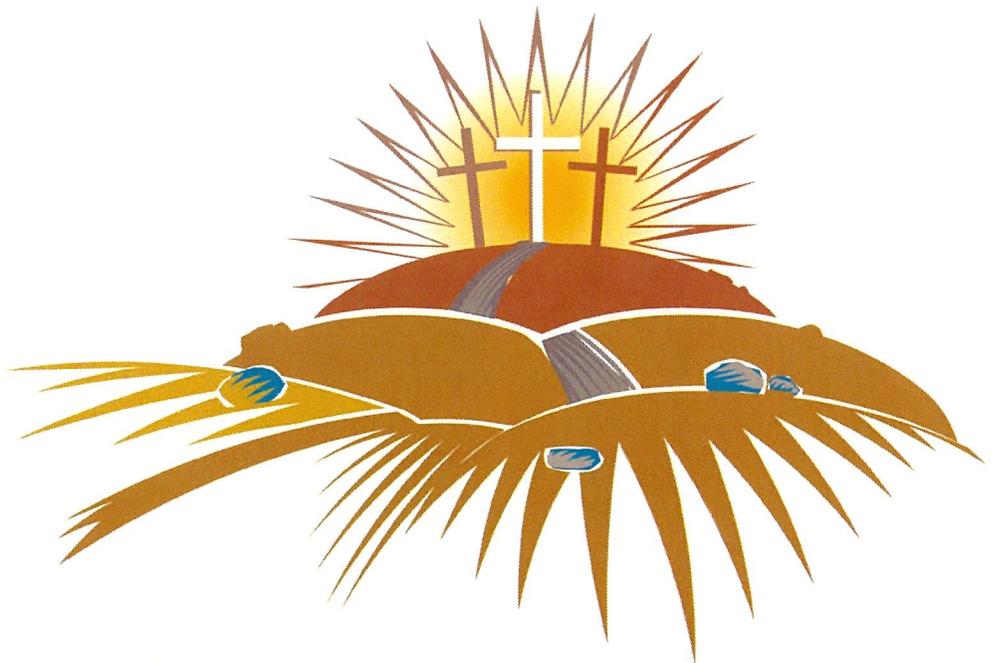
**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1342 WEST PROSPECT ROAD  
ASHTABULA OH 44004**

**MARCH 2023  
NEWSLETTER**

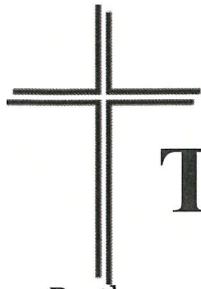


“We entreat you on behalf  
of Christ, be reconciled to  
God.”

2 Corinthians 5:20



**LENT**



# Trinity Times

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



When you live in the country, you must drive to get anywhere. On one particular trip to the grocery store, about a 30 minute drive away, the battery light came on my Ford Explorer. The light meant that the alternator had stopped working and our battery was going to slowly die. But I did not know this at the time. After calling my mechanic, who informed me of my dead alternator and soon to be dead battery, I drove my Explorer to his garage with just enough power in the battery to coast into the parking lot. He was able to replace the alternator and battery and get us back on the road.

Just as I needed help with my car while making the journey to town for groceries, so too did the pilgrims of Israel need help to make the journey to Jerusalem for the great festivals. Psalm 121 is a Song of Ascents, what the pilgrims sing while climbing the hills and mountains to God's sanctuary. For many the first verse is quite familiar and begins, *I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?* Driving a car for any distance brings risks associated with making that journey, make the journey to Jerusalem also brings risks associated with such a pilgrimage: bandits, injury, exhaustion. Our Psalm begins with pilgrims making such a journey and lifting their eyes to the Sanctuary of God enshrined in the hills of Judea for the help necessary to complete such a journey.

We too are pilgrims, but our pilgrimage is far different than the pilgrims of Israel three thousand years ago. They had to make the journey through the environments surrounding Jerusalem, but our journey is not through space but instead through time. Our journey is not about miles or meters, but instead about days and seasons. Just as your car can break down on such a journey from city to city, so too can we break down on such a journey from today to tomorrow and from year to year. We can find ourselves needing help from a broken alternator.

But the psalmist reminds us of where our help truly comes from; *My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.* God is with us not just with mercy and steadfast love, but because our God is YHWH, who made heaven and earth, God is with us with power. Power to create out of nothing, power to bring order by subduing chaos, power to bring life out of nothingness. This is why the Psalmist looks to the hills on their journey, this is why we look to God on our daily journeys. God is not only with us, but God is for us, with omnipotence, that cannot be rivalled or overcome by bandit or crisis.

This is why the Psalmist speaks of *he will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. And the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.* For the pilgrim is protected by YHWH, who keeps and protects the pilgrim making such a journey. And if God keeps us, who can bring threat or injury upon us? If God does not sleep in protecting us, then what opportunity exists for someone to bring ruin against us? To lead calamity or catastrophe upon the pilgrims of God, the bandit or crisis must be able to overcome God; and who can overwhelm the one who can create out of nothing?

So, friends, as we find ourselves in the season of Lent, the season of Jesus' pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Let us be reminded of our daily pilgrimage in time. As the Psalmist who found their journey under the protection of God, let us remember that our journeys fall under the grace and protection of the same God. And if we are kept by God, we can finish our journeys, faithfully. If God does not slumber, we can keep travelling. If we can look up to the hills, then we can understand that our help comes from God. If we can understand that God is our help, then nothing can stop us from finishing our journeys, in faith. And if nothing can move us, we can keep going, we can keep faith. We can reach the destination, because *the LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore.*

In Christ, Rev. Mark



# Trinity Times

## REPORT FROM SESSION

Session met on Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup>. The normal business was carried out, including:

- Approval of minutes of session meetings and congregational meeting
- Approval of Treasurer's report
- Approval of minister's report which included:
  - Information on shared worships with East Side (Ash Wednesday and Christmas Eve at East Side, Maundy Thursday at Trinity this year.)
  - Thursday evening Bible Study is on hold til after Easter to allow time for Lenten Suppers & Worship.
  - Rev. Mark listed his calls and visits.
  - There will be a Town Hall Meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30.
  - Session approved vacation requests from Rev. Mong for Jun 10 & 11, and June 26-July 6.
  - For his continued education, Rev. Mong has enlisted personal coaching services for 6 sessions.

Committee reports were approved and included:

- Worship & Music: March Ushers (Pam Bloom and Craig Reiter) and liturgists (Hobart Shiflet for March, Jessie Smith for April) were named
- Fellowship: There is a possible publication of a collaborative cookbook with East Side
- Community Outreach:
  - Approval to give \$1000 to RAMUSA for their April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> visit in Ashtabula
  - Collection for PCUSA One Great Hour of Sharing during March
- Property and Finance:
  - Minutes from their meeting were available
  - Approval for \$927 tentative bid for repair of sanctuary ceiling fan
  - The boiler was serviced by J&E Heating
  - There will be a Clean-up Day at Trinity on April 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Deacons: Pat Strock reported that the proceeds from the upcoming Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be used to offset expenses for care of our shut-ins
- Scrip: a report for January was available. \$700 was donated to Trinity's Operations fund
- Ministerial Relations: the group will meet February 27<sup>th</sup>
- Presbytery: Hobart Shiflet, commissioner, has attended meetings via Zoom



Mary Belding, Clerk of Session



# Trinity Times

## REPORT FROM COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community outreach met Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Thank you letters have been received from East Side Presbyterian along, with a tally of donations given to families/children in need with respect to Kids Only. This will be posted on the bulletin board.

The Hats and mittens were bagged and given to Lakeside Schools for distribution to children as needed.

The “SOUP”er bowl luncheon was enjoyed by all. Cash and soup donations will be distributed the first of March. Final tally forthcoming...



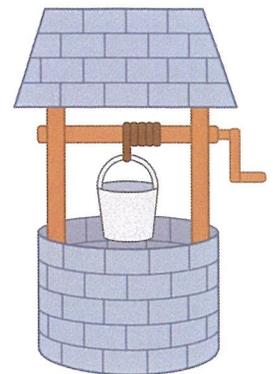
RAM (Remote Area Medical Assistance) is coming to Ashtabula County again April 1 and 2. A \$1,000.00 donation has been given again this year to sponsor this worthwhile event. Anyone interested in volunteering please review the information posted in the newsletter.

An e-mail was received from the Bike and Build organization indicating this will be their last and final year (20th ). We have been hosting this group the entire twenty years! More information to follow.

MARCH EVENT...During the Lenten season we will be hosting a cash collection. The Committee has given much consideration and prayer to the items listed in the Presbytery Giving Catalog (located in back of church). An anonymous cash donation of \$500 was given to this project. We hope to match it to purchase as many of the following items as possible:

- Garden Well(s) - \$50 share/\$1500.00 for a well
- Latrine(s) - \$50 share/\$350 latrine
- Jerry Can(s) - \$25
- Sewing Machine(s) - \$50

Let's see how full we can fill our shopping cart during the Lenten Season.



Looking forward:

A Baby Shower once again in April for G.O. Ministries.

April 22nd – Earth Day – City Clean up from 8:30 a.m. until noon

With much appreciation to all who support these worthwhile missions....

The Community Outreach Committee



# Trinity Times

Friends,

I have a few “Thank You’s” to give. First and foremost thanks to God. My life's journey from last June till now has been challenging. From needing a stress test in June, postponed many times due to other physical problems, till my last operation. My Doctors found I had a ureter blockage and after giving me a nephrostomy tube for 16 weeks set up a date to clear my blockage which included a heart catheter test which showed a partial blockage that my body already bypassed that cleared the way for my operation to clear my ureter blockage. I went in expecting a fairly short operation but early on THANKS TO GOD the doctors found something strange ,maybe a clot. They took a sample to pathology and after consulting the head pathologist he deemed it was a cancerous tumor. They went back and took my left kidney, a 12 hour operation. I could be bummed out about all this but if God did not partially block my ureter I never would have found the cancer. So my thanks to God.



Next, I want to thank everyone for all of the prayers and get well cards and Rev. Mark for his calls and concerns . It is a huge boost to my recovery. I can not thank you enough.

Thank you,  
Dale Fassett

## Lenten Suppers/Services

We will be having a time of food, fellowship and worship during the Lenten Season. We will be alternating between East Side and Trinity. Here is the schedule:

March 2nd 5:30—7pm East Side Dining Room

March 9th 5:30-7pm Trinity Fellowship Hall

March 16th 5:30-7pm East Side Dining Room

March 23rd 5:30-7pm Trinity Fellowship Hall

March 30th 5:30-7pm East Side Dining Room



Please feel free to join us at either church during this season of preparation.



# Trinity Times

## MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER/SERVICE

To Celebrate Maundy Thursday, on April 6th, the fellowship committee will be hosting Trinity and Eastside to a Soup Supper beginning at 5:30pm. They will be serving several types of soup, as well as bread, crackers, desserts and beverages.

Service will be in the Sanctuary at 7pm. We will be celebrating communion.



## REPORT FROM TRINITY SCRIP FUND

### Report January 2023

Dee Fassett and Mary Belding continue providing gift cards that, in turn, provided rebates that make it possible for the Scrip Program to contribute to Trinity.

<b>Beginning balance 2/01/23</b>	<b>\$ 1,233.52</b>
<b><i>Income from sales : Feb</i></b>	<b><i>\$ 2,405.00</i></b>

### *Cost of cards (incl. shipping):*

<b><i>Feb</i></b>	<b><i>\$ 2,543.66</i></b>
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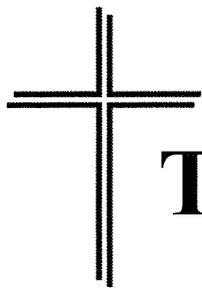


<b>Ending balance Feb 28, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 1,094.86</b>
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Thanks to all who support this mission.

Mary Belding

Dee Fassett



# Trinity Times

## AMENDED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

**February 12, 2023**

Rev. Mark Mong, moderator, of the Congregational meeting of the Trinity Presbyterian Church, called the meeting to order with prayer at 11:56 a.m. in the sanctuary of the church. The clerk verified that a quorum was present.

**Action:** The agenda was approved by the congregation.

Rev. Mong noted that all reports for 2022 have been made available in the Annual Congregational/ Corporation Meeting book which is available to all members.

Page 2 of the report listed all officers of the church. Appreciation for their contributions was expressed.

Page 3 of the report is the pastor's written report. There were no questions for the Pastor.

Pages 4 and 5 are the Statistical Report for 2022. It was noted that the church had decreased in members from 86 to 65. There were no comments or questions concerning the statistics.

Pages 6-11 contains the Reports of Church organizations and committees. Representatives of church boards and committees were asked for comments concerning their group and the floor opened for questions from the congregation.

Card Ministry: Folks were invited to join.

Christian Education: no comment

Session: no comment

Community Outreach: The congregation was thanked for their participation in all the projects.

Deacons: no comment.

Ministerial Relations : the group was introduced and people were reminded that this group is available to address any issues and to resolve any conflicts.

Eden Project: group was thanked for sharing produce with the congregation.

Emergency and Safety: no comment

Scrip: no comment

Personnel: Group was introduced and their availability for any concerns was expressed.

Property and finance: The group was thanked for their hard work.

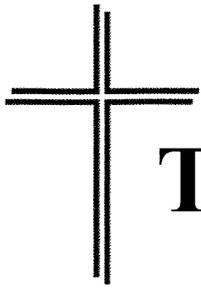
Capital Improvements: It was noted that \$3180 toward the installation of new exterior doors at the rear of the sanctuary was funded by the Ashtabula Foundation.

Worship and Music: no comment

There were no questions from the congregation.

**Action:** The congregation voted to accept all reports as presented.

Pages 12 & 13 contain the committee financial reports. Beth Dougherty, Chair of the Property and Finance Committee, explained that G&J Consulting (the CPA firm that does our finances) is



# Trinity Times

## AMENDED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES (CONT')

responsible for conducting an annual audit. We had a group from the church look at all reports and they found no problems.

**Action:** The motion from the Property and Finance Committee to accept the committee financial reports and approve the audits carried.

The floor was opened for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee. The committee will be headed by Mary Belding, second-term Elder. David Adams and Dale Fassett volunteered to serve as members-at-large on the committee.

**Action:** The congregation elected David Adams and Dale Fassett for the nominating committee.

The Congregational Meeting was temporarily closed and the Corporation meeting was convened by Property and Finance Chair/President of the Corporation, Beth Dougherty.

Beth Dougherty presented the 2022 Financial Report, including a review of the church's investments.

The budget for 2023 was presented by Ms. Dougherty. In 2022 we took about \$40,000 from investments to cover our budgetary shortfall. Because of our yoking with East Side Presbyterian Church, we will probably have to take \$25,000 from investments this year to meet our budget.

There were some questions and comments concerning benevolent payments to community groups which were all addressed.

**Action:** The congregation voted to accept the Financial Report as presented.

There being no other corporation business, Rev. Mong reconvened the Congregational Meeting.

There was no old business.

There was no new business, but the congregation was told that we may be having Town Hall meetings this year for future planning

The meeting was adjourned.

Rev. Mong dismissed the congregation with prayer and benediction at 12:21 p.m.



### **Prayer List**

Beverly Cigani, Marion Shipman, Mike and Marj Kenny, Pete and Fran Wilson, Lynda Bennet, Family of Elsie Keefe, Genny Wallace, Marj Landfried, Ruth Allen, and Dale Fassett



# March 2023

Website [www.trinityashtabula.org](http://www.trinityashtabula.org)  
 Email [trinitypres04@gmail.com](mailto:trinitypres04@gmail.com)  
**Elder On Call: Pam Bloom (440) 344-7277**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bible Study 10 am East Side Cardmaking 6:30 pm Clean and Free 7 pm	2 Lenten supper 5:30 pm Lenten Service 6:15 pm Both at Eastside	3 Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	4 Lions Club Breakfast 9am-12 noon Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
5 <b>Face-Face Worship 11:00 am Video Worship Communion</b>	6	7 Al-Anon 7 pm  Knitting Group - East Side 10-12 noon Al-Anon 7 pm	8 Bible Study 10 am East Side Property and Finance 6:00 pm Clean and Free 7 pm	9 Brown Bag Lunch packing 10 am  Lenten supper 5:30 pm Lenten Service 6:15 pm Both at Trinity	10 Crystal Meth Anon	11  Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
12 <i>Daylight Savings Time</i>  <b>2¢ A Meal Collection Face-Face Worship 11:00 am Video Worship</b>	13	14  Romeos 9 am Debs Diner Al-Anon 7 pm	15 Bible Study 10am East Side  Joint Deacon and Session 6:00 pm Clean and Free 7 pm	16  Lenten supper 5:30 pm Lenten Service 6:15 pm Both at Eastside	17  Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	18  Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
19  <b>Face-Face Worship 11:00 am Video Worship</b>	20 <i>First Day of Spring</i>  Cardmaking 6:30 pm	21 Knitting Group - East Side 10-12 noon Trinity Book Group Al-Anon 7 pm	22 Town Hall 6:30 pm  Bible Study 10 am East Side Clean and Free 7 pm	23  Lenten supper 5:30 pm Lenten Service 6:15 pm Both at Trinity	24 Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	25  Saturday Night Delight 7pm One Addict Helping Another 10 pm
26  <b>Face-Face Worship 11:00 am Video Worship</b>	27	28  Al-Anon 7 pm	29  Bible Study 10 am East Side Clean and Free 7 pm	30  Lenten supper 5:30 pm Lenten Service 6:15 pm Both at Eastside	31 Crystal Meth Anon 6:30 pm	<b>Church Office Hours</b> Monday and Friday 10 am-12 pm Wednesday 9:30 am-11:30 am