

**UNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**1342 PROSPECT ROAD**  
**ASHTABULA OH 44004**  
**[www.trinityashtabula.org](http://www.trinityashtabula.org)**

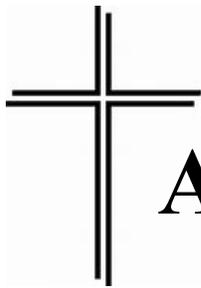
**MARCH 2026**  
**NEWSLETTER**



“Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.”

Mark 1:14-15





# Ashtabula Times

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Thank you to all of those who provided soup, bread, and desserts for the Souper Sunday lunch and to all who worked.
- Thanks for the generous response to the soup collection for the food pantry.
- One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is being collected February 22 through April 5.
- Donations collected at the Lenten Soup Suppers will be used to purchase supplies for the Blessing Box.
- Looking ahead:
  1. April – Collection of items (newborn – 2) for H.I.P
  2. H.I.P. Baby Shower following worship on May 17 th
  3. Ladies' Night at Old Mill Winery on Tuesday, May 12, @4:30 PM
- NEXT MEETING: March 15, 2026, following worship



Pam Bloom and Edie Makynen: co-chairpersons

## TRINITY CLOSING/UNITY OPENING WORSHIP

The Session of the Trinity Presbyterian Church along with the Administrative Commission of the Presbytery of the Western Reserve have set a date for the final Sunday worship service for the congregation of the Trinity Presbyterian Church and the opening of the Unity Presbyterian Church. We will be gathering in Trinity's Sanctuary on Sunday, April 12th at 10am with members of the Presbytery to celebrate the life and closure of Trinity and the joy and opening of Unity. We will be celebrating communion with past Ministers and current members of the Presbytery.

Please be on the look out for more information as well as opportunities to participate in the worship.





# Ashtabula Times

## MEETING SCHEDULE

- ✦ Game Day—March 3rd, 17th and 31st, 11:30am—1:30pm at Unity
- ✦ Town Hall Meeting—March 4th, 6:30pm at Unity
- ✦ Worship and Music—March 9th, 6:30pm at Unity
- ✦ ROMEOs—Tuesday, March 10th, 9am at Deb’s Diner
- ✦ Tri-Church Lunch Packing—Thursday, March 12th, 10am at Unity
- ✦ Merging Committee —Thursday, March 12th, 1pm at Unity
- ✦ Outreach - Sunday, March 15th after worship at Unity
- ✦ East Side Session—Monday, March 16th, 6:30pm at East Side
- ✦ Ministerial Relations Committee—Tuesday, March 17th, 6:30pm at Unity
- ✦ Trinity Property/Finance—Wednesday, March 18th, 6pm at Unity
- ✦ Trinity Session—Wednesday, March 18th, 7pm at Unity



## EASTSIDE’S BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd Kevin Johnson
- 4th Phyllis Willis
- 19th Don Gill
- 13th Joanne Schubert (89th)
- 18th Tom Pocza
- 21st Keith Brown
- 23rd Thomas Headman

## EASTSIDE’S ANNIVERSARIES

- 24th Keith & Cheri Brown



## PRAYER LIST

Don Berg, Debbie Kemp, Wanda Breedlove, Jane Planisek and Family, Stephanie Ashley, Genny Wallace, Jim & Rose Booth, Jim Johnston, The Family of Randy Cotton and Jennifer Hakkarainen Coutts



# Ashtabula Times

## REPORT FROM TRINITY'S SESSION

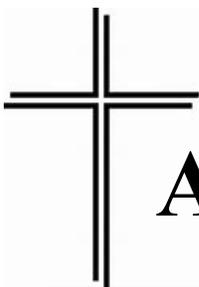
Session met February 11th , a week earlier than usual because of Ash Wednesday, and the normal business was carried out including:

- Approval of minutes from January session meeting and the minutes from the February 6th Congregational Meeting.
- The clerk's report included thank you letters from Kathy Fassett for the church's Christmas gift, from Kathy Fassett for the flowers from the church for Dale's funeral and from Kathy and David Depp for the flowers, kindness and prayers following the death of Kathy's mother.
- The Minister's report included:
  - ✦ Bible studies cancelled during Lent.
  - ✦ Next Town Hall March 4th at 6:30 in Unity's sanctuary
  - ✦ Thursday Lenten Soup suppers and worship begin February 26 th at 6:00.
- Committee reports
  - ✦ Worship and Music
    - ◇ February 1st communion served 47
    - ◇ Worship March 22nd will be at East Side, closing the church.
  - ✦ Community Outreach
    - ◇ Will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering during Lent.
  - ✦ Property and Finance
    - ◇ Bids are being sought for the replacement of three exterior doors.
  - ✦ Fellowship
    - ◇ Free will offerings during the Lenten suppers will fund the Blessing Box
  - ✦ Merging
    - ◇ Continuing work on the Manual of Operations



Meeting  
Minutes

Mary Belding, Clerk of Trinity



# Ashtabula Times

## MERGING COMMITTEE

Since May of 2025, we have come together to discern the steps needed to become Unity Presbyterian Church of Ashtabula.

The Merging Committee has produced a Vision Statement, By-Laws, and a Manual of Operations which includes Policies, Guidelines, and Committees for the Unity Presbyterian Church. This will all be compiled and provided electronically.

This has been an exciting and rewarding endeavor. Through this process, our understanding of Church has grown and a stronger fellowship has blossomed. It is our hope that this work will serve our church into the future.

The Merging Committee: Mary Belding, Pam Bloom, Cathy Burnham, Beth Dougherty, Ellen Jacobs, Rosemary Peck, Edie Makynen and Craig Reiter



## THANK YOU

On behalf of my family, I would like to extend our sincerest appreciation for the outpouring of support we received during Dale's illness. Your prayers, visits, cards, phone calls and encouraging words were a tremendous source of strength for all of us. Your care and concern meant more than we can ever adequately express. Your compassion carried us through very hard days and your presence was a constant reminder that we were not alone.

Please remember, as Dale always did:

Life is short so don't forget to smile.

Sincerely,

The family of Dale Fassett



## MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

We will be gathering in the fellowship hall on Thursday, April 2nd at 6pm for dinner and then move to the sanctuary at 7pm for our Maundy Thursday worship service with communion. All are invited to a time of solemn worship, communion and mindfulness as we conclude our journey to Jerusalem again.



# Ashtabula Times

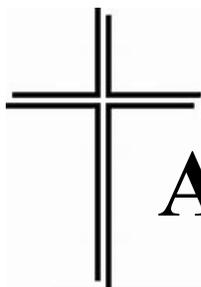
## REPORT FROM EAST SIDE'S SESSION

- The Minutes were reviewed and approved.
- The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved.
- The Deacons are preparing for Shrove Tuesday on February 17, 2026.
- Pastor's Report:
  1. Bible Studies are on hold until after Lent.
  2. Reviewed visits and calls with Mark.
  3. New caregiver support group is forming.
  5. Mark continues to serve as Moderator of the Coordinating Cabinet and serves on the Moderator's Committee and Coordinating Cabinet.
  8. Lenten Suppers begin on February 26 th and continue until Maundy Thursday. We will be having soup and worship on Thursday evenings at 6:00 PM.
  9. The final Worship Service at East Side will be March 22, 2026, with dinner following worship. Former Pastors have been invited to participate in the service.
- Clerk's report: Approved the website for Unity.
- Merging Committee is continuing to work on Budget and Bank Accounts.
- Buildings and Grounds: Committee hired Matt Burns to do snow plowing at East Side.
- Outreach: Donations for the Lenten Suppers will go toward the Blessing Box at Unity. The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering starts February 18, 2026. Minutes for Mission March 8, 2026, by Sara Wetzel and March 25, 2026, by Mary Belding.
- Worship and Music: Lilies have been ordered for Easter Sunday. The next meeting will be on March 9, 2026.



**MEETING  
MINUTES**

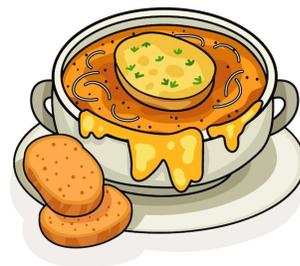
Cathy Burnham, Clerk of Session



# Ashtabula Times

## LENTEN SUPPERS

Our Lenten Suppers dinner and worship series will resume again this Lenten Season. We will be gathering at 6pm in Unity's Fellowship Hall on Thursday evenings in Lent for a time of food with a soup supper and then a time of worship immediately following. Please be on the look out for signup sheets for the many opportunities to contribute. We begin Lent with a worship service on February 18th at 7pm for Ash Wednesday and end Lent with supper and worship on April 2nd also at 6pm and 7pm respectively. We hope to see you there.

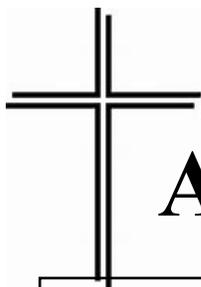


February 26th	Lenten Supper	The Apostle's Creed, Part 1
March 5th	Lenten Supper	The Apostle's Creed, Part 2
March 12th	Lenten Supper	The Apostle's Creed, Part 3
March 19th	Lenten Supper	The Apostle's Creed, Part 4
March 26th	Lenten Supper	The Apostle's Creed, Part 5
April 2nd	Maundy Thursday	Worship With Communion

## EAST SIDE CLOSING WORSHIP

The Session of East Side Presbyterian Church cordially invites the members and friends of Trinity Presbyterian Church to attend the closing worship service of the church, including communion, on Sunday, March 22, 2026. The service will commence at East Side at 10:00 and will be followed by a catered luncheon. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by March 9 with the number attending to: 440-993-7546 (no answer, leave message) or Email: [espc.office3440@gmail.com](mailto:espc.office3440@gmail.com)





# Ashtabula Times



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Brothers and Sister in Christ,

I am sure by now that you have either watched the Olympics or read/heard a report about the Olympics. But nonetheless the Winter Olympics are in full force and most of our community is drawn to pay attention however that looks like. I admire the tenacity of the athletes who have spent so much time and energy investing into just qualifying for the games themselves. How much was spent on diet, exercise and training to become the best they could be at their events? But making the Olympics is just half the goal, they must then apply themselves more so to competing against the best in the world. They must commit, excel and strain to achieve a medal. Attaining the Olympic games is not the goal, but to win gold.

Paul may have never competed in the curling competition, and neither could I, but he did know about the games because in his letter to the Philippians he uses the image of running the race. He understands himself as the athlete competing in the race and all that it takes to attain and reach the finish line. *Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own.* Paul describes how far he has come into the work of his Apostleship, but he has not attained the resurrection of the dead. He might have made the games, but he has not won the gold medal, he must press on to make it his own. He must invest more of himself even to the point of being crucified with Christ to achieve the finish line, the gold medal, the resurrection of the dead.

Look at how far we have come in our calling to merge. We are almost four years in this process and that time has passed quickly. Think of the decisions we have made, the bonds that we have nurtured, and the lessons we have learned. We have come far. But the goal is not just to make the merger complete, the goal lies further on and we must press on. The goal is not just to make the games, but to win gold, the goal is not just to merge, but the goal lies further on. We have invested ourselves in the work set before us, but we must continue the work even after the merger is finished. We must press on to gold; the resurrection.

We would be remiss though if we forget that the only reason we make this our own mission and goal is because Christ has made us his own. Think of how Christ pressed on to find and rescue us, even at the cost of his life in the worst of possible deaths. If this is how he acts towards those he loves and cares for, then how far will you go to press on and make it yours? Think of the sacrifices in spending our time with and for others. Contemplate the offerings of your resources for those in our community in need. Ponder the gifts of your abilities and skills that you could share and put to work for those in want. If Jesus has made this his own mission and purpose, then we can also make this our own. We can go for gold; the resurrection.

What are you pressing forward and straining towards? Do your goals align with Christ's? The work of this Lenten season may just be that we align our goals increasingly with Christ's. To strain ahead instead of resting in the glories of the past, to press forward into the unknown future of what Unity is called to be. But make no mistake that these forty days are about not just being grateful for how far we come but also realizing that we have not yet reached the finish line. We must press on; we must strain for the finish line, no matter what the cost to ourselves. This is how Jesus lives and through the work of His Spirit it can become how we live. Let us press on, let us reach for gold, let us reach for Christ and make Him our own. Amen.

In Christ,  
Rev. Mark