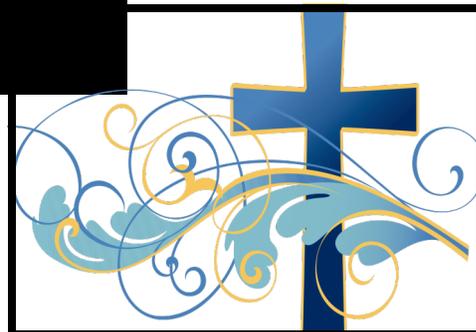


MAY

Trinity Times

2016

PASTOR JUNE'S LETTER



“Don’t muddy the water.” Rev. Jim Rimmer, our consultant on conflict reminded us a few weeks back that often what we say and do muddies the water rather than helping make things clear. It is interesting in Psalm 23 that the psalmist praises the Good Shepherd for bringing him to still or clear waters. Sheep don’t want to drink from waters that are stirring. Nor do they want to drink from muddied waters. They want still, calm clear water for drinking.

If we at Trinity see ourselves as sheep in Christ’s flock, then we also don’t want to drink from those muddied waters. Yet how often does a story, or a few words end up making another of the “sheep” look bad. One of the problems sheep have is that it is difficult for them to stay together and hang in there together. There is a constant need for a shepherd and a sheep dog to keep the flock together and moving in the right direction. We add to the muddiness by not checking our facts before repeating stories or commenting on how others do things around the church. Then the muddiness separates people as each searches for something better or at least different – different committee, different place to sit, different church. We need to speak to one another in love and with love, then try to help make things calm, still and filled with Christ’s peace.

Jesus reminded his first disciples that the only true measure of faith and discipleship was love for one another. Do we stop before we speak to make sure our words will build up and not tear down? Can each of us let go of how things used to be done to allow someone to try a different way? Do we really need to spend so much time in the parking lot, or at meetings or on the phone talking about others behind their backs? All of those things are not loving. They muddy the waters and keep Trinity from being the church Christ calls it to be. As we approach Pentecost, may we open our hearts and minds fully to the work of the Holy Spirit to clear the waters here and enable us to act in truly loving ways towards one another.

Godspeed,

Rev. June Begany

FROM YOUR SESSION:

Session has been working steadily to assist Trinity being a more efficient and forward-looking church. Pastor Begany has been encouraging and guiding us through these necessary written procedures.

We are revising the by-laws which will be presented to the congregation for their approval.

We are looking at the membership rolls to be sure they reflect the actual count of active members. There is a twofold purpose here 1) to contact those who have not been active to seek to restore them to active status, and 2) to be financially prudent so as not to have to pay per capita to the PCUSA for people who are no longer active members of Trinity. According to the Book of Order of the PCUSA (G-3.0204a) "...the session may delete names from the roll of the congregation when a member so requests, or has moved or otherwise ceased to participate actively in the work and worship of the congregation for a period of two years. The session shall seek to restore members to active participation and shall provide written notice before deleting names due to member inactivity."

The standards for use of the church building have been revised.

We will be revising the *Committee Handbook and Church Policies and Guidelines for Trinity Presbyterian Church*.

All these things will not only make us operate more efficiently, but will also more clearly show a new pastor how Trinity functions.

Besides these projects, we, of course, are taking care of the usual business of the church.

We thank you for your trust and appreciate your prayers for God's guidance.

Blessings,

Mary Belding

Clerk of Session

Put Your Best Dish Forward!

June 19, Father's Day, has traditionally been the day for a pie auction at Trinity. This year, we're trying something new. Instead of just pies, people are invited to bring their favorite dish to make. That could be a pie but it could also be a salad, a bread, a meatloaf or lasagna, or some special dish. This should be a good challenge to our auctioneer and provide some tasty, homemade dishes to be enjoyed by Trinity members. Look for the sign-up sheet at coffee hour. Even if you're not sure exactly which dishes you'll be bringing, please sign up to let Community Council know that you plan to bring a dish for the auction. Which you bring the dish it would be a good idea to either label it or attach the recipe so people can make sure they can have the dish on which they're bidding. Money from the auction will go toward the fund to refurbish the office for the new pastor or help with moving expenses.

Be sure to plan to stay for coffee hour on June 19. Be prepared to leave with tasty dishes for later!



TREASURER'S REPORT MARCH 2016

Income	\$ 9,141.00
Expenses	13,798.14
Net Income	(4,657.14)

Total Deficit January through March (7,874.37) We projected a deficit of (12,362.93) for January through March.

We are using investments to pay the deficit difference each month.

We are going to have expenses each month, some unexpected ones, but as long as all of you honor your weekly and monthly pledges to the church, you are helping us greatly to hold that deficit down.

If you are curious about the investment accounts, there is a copy of the balance sheet in the office which shows the balances in all accounts of the church. Lynne will gladly make a copy for you. There is also an Income and Expense Report for March which shows income and expense to all budget accounts and would give you a look at how much we take in and pay out each month and also a YTD (Year to Date) total.

We try to keep all of you informed.

Treasurer,
Lois J. Fassett

**STEWARDSHIP**

What a generous and faithful congregation we have. With your generosity, \$917.00 was given for One Great Hour of Sharing. Stewardship is continuing weekly with messages involving our church. David Adams told the history of "2 Cents A Meal" Program. It is being collected on the second Sunday of each month. These gifts are to be placed in a basket in the rear of the sanctuary.

Mary Belding enlightened the congregation on the purpose and progress of the Eden Project.

Now we are asked to share gifts during Pentecost. 40% of the collection remains in our church. This year the money will be given to help with the cost for maintenance and insurance for hearing aids for hearing impaired children in Ashtabula.

Speakers who will tell more about the Pentecost offering include Susan Hogle, Rev. June Begany, Jane Planisek and Peggy LaDu.

Dedication of our gifts will be on May 15th.

1 Thessalonians 2:8 "We are glad to share not only God's good news, but also our very lives because we cared for you."

Eden Project

It is time to start playing in the dirt!

The Eden Project is beginning its fourth year: Growing Food-Growing Faith.

We will again be sharing our produce with our church family and with the Dream Center. We have had a wonderful group of folks helping in this project. Anyone interested in being a part of the garden gang can talk with Joyce Kren or Mary Belding.



Book Club

The next meeting of the Trinity Book Club will be 7:00 pm on Tuesday, May 17th, at church. We will be hosting the Ashtabula First United Methodist book club for a joint discussion of *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough. Hostesses will be Beth Adams, Ginger Belding and Meghan Davis. Melanie Todd will lead the book discussion. All are welcome to attend.

Please contact

Meghan at 992-8362 to RSVP by Tuesday, May 10th.

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. Romans 15:

Don't Expect Perfection

Some messages are crystal clear. No ambiguity. No misunderstanding. "Slightly irregular" would fit into that category. If you buy this garment, you will find a zipper that won't zip, a stain that won't come out, a buttonhole missing its mate, a rip that can't be mended. You have been warned. So "Buck up" and don't come crying to our return department later on.

Paul implores us to accept one another as Christ does. Our sin, of course, is far more than "slightly irregular," but we also have been bought. Our Savior says, "I'll buy them all, every single one."

I know this one has a love that won't love, this one has a grudge that won't let go. I can see the toxic heart in this one and that smugness stain on the soul of that one. Makes no difference to Me!

"I'll take them all! Wrap them up!"

Paul encourages us to remember our humble beginnings on a reject table, but the victory at Calvary changed all that. Now we're wrapped in the robes of righteousness; we're going home with Jesus, not to a closet but to an eternal family. You and I have been bought at the cross with His perfect love. Try wearing that today, because it looks mighty fine.

Lord Jesus, You have a "fashion passion" to dress us daily in forgiveness, joy and love. Thank you, and help me to wear Your lordship boldly today. Amen

Jessie Smith

Portals of Prayer

Do more than exist...

Live!

Do more than touch...

Feel!

Do more than look...

See!

Do more than hear ...

Listen!

Do more than talk...

Say something!

Jessie Smith

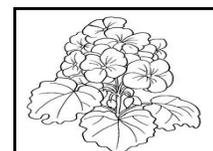
God Allows U-turns

GERANIUMS FOR MEMORIAL DAY!

\$3.00 A PIECE

**ORDERS MUST BE
RECEIVED BY MONDAY,
MAY 16TH.**

(order form on back of page 7)



PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We are nearing the point of new beginnings! How exciting is this time for us! April 17, in Church, the PNC asked the congregation to think of one word that best describes the future of Trinity Presbyterian Church. The PNC word is "excited". It is our hope that every member and friend of this Church is as excited as we are that we are nearing the time to call a new pastor to the Church.

To begin our preparation, the list below highlights things we need to keep in mind when welcoming our new pastor.

While a pastor can do many things, (some neat and others almost amazing), there are many things a pastor cannot do. The following are a few that come to mind:

A pastor cannot make a congregation grow. All labor, but God gives the increase. Not just numbers, but spirit and strength.

I Cor. 3:6-7

A pastor cannot make everyone happy. First of all, this is not a pastor's job. Secondly, Jesus had a lot to say about happiness or blessedness. As Abe Lincoln said, "*Folks are about as happy as they want to be.*"

Matthew 5: 3-11

A pastor cannot always tell you what you want to hear. "Speaking the truth in love" may be an uncomfortable challenge.

Ephesians 4:15

A pastor cannot be good at everything. Every human being has strengths and weaknesses. Pastors are human beings. God already knows that and calls them anyway. For example Moses in Exodus 6:28 – 7:7

A pastor cannot always "be fair." While 'fairness' is an important ideal to follow, God's grace, mercy, and steadfast love are not fair. God gives us what we need, not what we deserve or can afford

A pastor cannot remember everything. You know that really important message that you told the pastor when you shook hands with them going out of church, WELL, they forgot it before you got to your car. Next time give the pastor a note and your phone number to call for more info.

Now, here are some ways you can help our new PASTOR (Christ's Church and yourself):

Remember that:

Prayer is the greatest path to the power and presence of God.

Servant hood is the highest greatness. We have seen much servant leadership in the last 6 months. Church members have stepped up to help Pastor June with all the work and responsibilities. "*Get er done!*" should be our motto. That ownership is essential to being Christ's church, with or without a pastor.

Communion is our greatest supper. All other meals are just practice.

Baptism is our greatest symbol of death and life.

Love is the greatest act.

The church does not belong to the pastor. For that matter, neither does it belong to the congregation. In the biblical model, the church belongs to God, who has appointed Christ as its head. We as believers are Christ's body. The word for church is *ecclesia* meaning the "called-out ones." We are the assembly of the called-out ones who gather to worship. He died for us and as his body, we live for him. For a Pastor to be truly successful, we as members of Christ's body, as leaders in the church, need to come to grips with this truth and live it out daily.

While a pastor is a shepherd, the LORD is our shepherd, and Christ is the Good Shepherd. We are to look always to God's provision for us all. In every moment of life this is true. A pastor is but an imperfect reminder of the Holy One who loves us and embraces us in each moment of life.

The pastor is a leader but Christ is the Founder of the Church. So we always have our Founder, even when we may be without a leader.

Remember to keep your sense of humor. "Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves, for they shall never cease to be amused."

Submitted by, Trinity's PNC

Session wanted the congregation to know that the usage policy has been changed and updated.

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1342 West Prospect Road

Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

440-993-7111

FELLOWSHIP HALL USAGE POLICY

Members: There is no charge for the use of Fellowship Hall if the member is on the church's active roll. However, a custodial fee of \$75.00 will be charged for set-up and clean-up. This fee may be waived if the member assumes responsibility for the set-up and clean-up. It is expected that the facility is left as found.

Non-Members: A fee for use of Fellowship Hall for non-members is outlined below. For the purpose of procuring Fellowship Hall, only members and their *immediate* families (parents and/or children) who are the primary hosts of the event will have the fee waived. This fee is for one day.

75-100 persons:	\$250.00
50-75 persons:	\$200.00
35-50 persons:	\$175.00
Fewer than 35 persons:	\$150.00

For non-members using Fellowship Hall, a custodial fee of \$75.00 will also be charged for set-up and clean-up. These rental fees include the use of the kitchen but not dishes or any items in the cabinets. The dish washer/sanitizer may not be used.

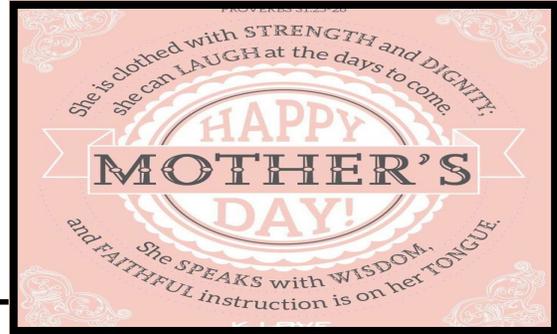
For larger events, additional rooms may be used at a cost of \$25.00 per room.

All events scheduled in Fellowship Hall are subject to approval by the Session of Trinity.

The Usage Form must be filled out to be addressed by Session.

Payment is due two (2) weeks prior to the event. The person wanting to use the Fellowship Hall must come in to the church office to complete and sign the forms.

Trinity Session approved
April 2016



RUMMAGE



The PNC is excited to announce

we will be having a rummage sale

Saturday June 4, 9am-3 pm here at the Church!

So clean out your closets, basements, attics, and garages

We can pick your donations up-just let us know

Let your family and friends know-they are welcome to donate

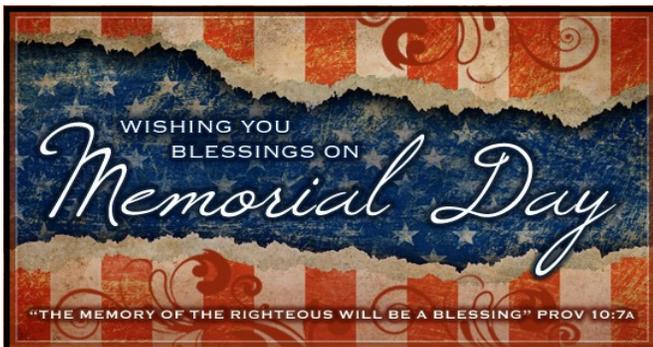
and we hope they will come and shop

Kathy Depp is organizing the sale-please see her, or call her for more information,
or call the church office.

We also are looking for volunteers to help organize and
set up the week before work the day of
and

a few trucks to haul away anything left over after sale is over-which will be donated to
the Garage sale bonanza

Proceeds will go to remodel the Pastors office



Wear RED for Pentecost!

Red stands for flames which is one of the symbols for the Holy Spirit. Another is the dove. The flames, which are shown on each side of the PC (USA) seal, remind us not only of the gift of the Holy Spirit, the counselor and Comforter, but of the need for the cleansing power of Christ in our lives, in the church and in the world.



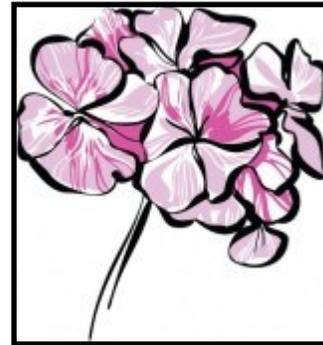
MEMORIAL GERANIUM ORDER

If you wish to have a red geranium planted around the outside of the church for the summer, please complete this order form. Plants are **\$3.00** each and grown by the Ash/Craft Greenhouse, which provides people with developmental disabilities productive work. The list of donors with whom the plants are in honor/memory of will be an insert to the bulletin on **Memorial Sunday, May 29th**.

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

From : _____



TOTAL # OF PLANTS _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Orders are due in the church office by **Monday, May 10, 2016**. Please make your check payable to Trinity Presbyterian Church, and money is due when you place your order. Orders and money can be mailed to Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1342 W. Prospect Road, Ashtabula, OH 44004. Call the church office at 993-7111 if you have questions.

PNC asked you to come up with a word that best describes how you feel about the calling of a new minister to Trinity Presbyterian Church.

PNC's word was EXCITED!

Here is what our awesome congregation came up with!

TOP 3 WERE:

HOPE*GROWTH***FRIENDSHIP**

HOPE*STABILITY*SHARING*WELCOMING*POSITIVE*SPIRITUAL GROWTH*HEALING*FAMILY*
FELLOWSHIP*ANTICIPATION*COMMITMENT*PARTICIPATION*FRIENDSHIP* LOVE*FAITH*
CHANGE*UNITY*HARMONY*ENTHUSIASM *ENGAGING*GIVING*MISSIONAL *TOGETHER*
HOPEFULL FOR A NEW BEGINNING*KINDNESS*EXCITING WORSHIP*AMAZING THINGS AHEAD*
LOVING FRIENDS IN CHRIST *DON'T MUDDY THE WATERS*TRUST MORE JUDGE LESS*
LET GO AND LET GOD

May 2016

DEACON ON CALL: MARY ANN JORDAN 964-9690

LITURGIST: MARY JEPSON

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 COMMUNION 9:00 Choir 10:30 Worship/SS Bells during worship	2 5:30 Weight Watchers	3 11:30 Game Day 7:00 Al-Anon	4 6:30 Card Ministry 6:30 Deacons	5 Prayer Group Thursday Ladies 6:30 Bells	6 Prayer Breakfast 7:00 am Saybrook Banquet Center (ticket required)	7
8 2¢ A Meal Collection MOTHER'S DAY 9:00 Choir 10:30 Worship/SS	9 5:30 Weight Watchers	10 ROMEOS AT Deb's 7:00 Al-Anon	11 6:30 Card Ministry	12 Prayer Group Thursday Ladies 6:30 Bells 7:30 Prop./Finance	13	14
15 PENTECOST 9:00 Choir 10:30 Worship/SS Bells during worship	16 5:30 Weight Watchers	17 11:30 Game Day 7:00 Al-Anon 7:00 Book Club	18 6:00 Comm. Council 6:30 Card Ministry 7:00 Session	19 Prayer Group Thursday Ladies	20	21
22 GRADUATION SUNDAY 9:00 Choir 10:30 Worship/SS	23 5:30 Weight Watchers	24 7:00 Al-Anon	25 6:30 Card Ministry 7:00 Stewardship	26 Prayer Group Thursday Ladies	27	28
29 MEMORIAL SUNDAY 9:00 Choir 10:30 Worship/SS	30 MEMORIAL DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 	31 11:30 Game Day 7:00 Al-Anon				