

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

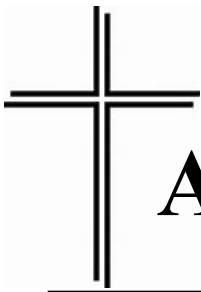
MAY 2026
NEWSLETTER



“And Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 2:38





Ashtabula Times

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

MAY 9: Ashtabula City Clean Up – Meet at Unity at 8:30 a.m. to pick up neighborhood streets. Donuts and Coffee provided!

MAY 12: Ladies Night at Old Mill Winery 4:30 p.m. Please sign up or see Joyce Kren.



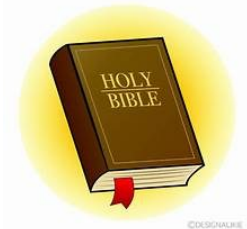
MAY 17: Collection of baby items during month of May with Baby Shower for Independent Parents/G.O. Ministries following worship. Baby items for infants to two years of age.

JUNE: G.O. Ministries school supply give away is August 1st. We will begin school supply collection in June.

Blessing Box: Needed: handheld foods, hygiene products for men and women, plastic utensils, toothpaste & toothbrushes, scarves, and hats.
The donations received from the Lenten Soup Services will be used to resupply some of these needs.

Continuing collection of soft sided bibles for Way Out Ministry.

Our continued gratitude for your ongoing support!



NEXT MEETING – To be scheduled

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

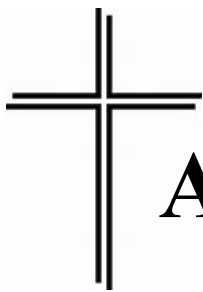
RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program)
For information visit ashtabulagiveback.org or contact
Stephanie Blessing – Americore – 440-670-9125 to volunteer
G.O. Ministries
Breakfast at First Baptist Church M-F – Feeding homeless 8:30-9:30 a.m.

BIBLE STUDIES

Every Wednesday at 10am in Sewing Room—studying Revelation

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





Ashtabula Times

MEETING SCHEDULE

- GameDay - May 12th and 26th, 11:30am—1:30pm
- YES You Can Group—every Wednesday, Noon—2pm
- First Session Meeting—May 6th at 6:30pm in Sewing Room
- ROMEO's—May 12th, 9am at Deb's Diner
- Lunch Packing—May 14th, 10am in Fellowship Hall



THE EDEN PROJECT- "GROWING FOOD, GROWING FAITH"

The project started in 2012 with much help from many people. We have been able in past years to donate produce to the Dream Center, as well as sharing with our neighbors and church members.

In 2016, we received a donation from Beth and David Adams of two wonderful benches which were installed on the north east corner of the garden. A flower bed was added near the benches to enhance being able to peacefully enjoy the garden. The benches are still there and still as nice as new. Our Ashtabula neighbors respectfully use them.

Some of our beds have been planted with perennial flowers. One of our neighbors has planted and tended one of the beds for her own use. What a joy to share!

It is a joy to work in the garden to provide nutritious food to our neighbors and church family.

Please feel free to join us!

Ruth Allen, Mary Belding, Dee Fassett, Becca Stowell



UNITY'S BIRTHDAYS

12th Edie Makynen

20th Pat Ford

UNITY'S ANNIVERSARIES

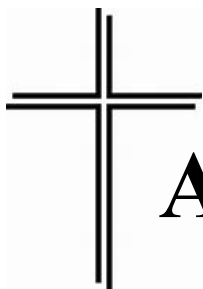


None



PRAYER LIST

Don Berg, Wanda Breedlove, Stephanie Ashley, Genny Wallace, Jim & Rose Booth, Jim Johnston, Pat Ford, Shirley Truesdell, Missy Tobias, Evon Glass, Pati Rockwell, and Jennifer Hakkarainen Coutts



Ashtabula Times

PULPIT SUPPLY

While Rev. Mark is on vacation the week of May 11th to May 17th, The Rev. Joe Fields will be willing the pulpit on Sunday, May 17th. His sermon title is "Which Way Did He Go?" Please extend our hospitality and welcome to him.



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The appointed National Day of Prayer for 2026 is on May 7th. To promote unity and spiritual growth in the community, participate in the Ashtabula County Day of Prayer by following these steps:

- Join local events and gatherings to pray collectively.
- Encourage community members to share their prayer requests.
- Organize prayer walks in neighborhoods to foster connection.
- Invite local leaders to speak and share their faith journeys.
- Provide resources for personal and group prayer sessions.
- Use social media to spread awareness and invite participation.



PENTECOST SUNDAY

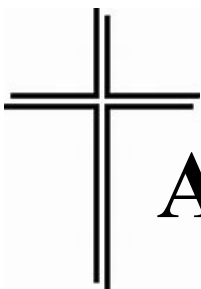
Pentecost Sunday will be on May 24th this year. We ask that everyone wear red as we renew our baptismal vows as a congregation.



ASHTABULA CLUSTER

The Ashtabula Cluster of Presbyterian Churches met on Saturday, April 25th from nine to noon at the Kingsville Presbyterian Church with 24 attendees. We will be meeting again on Saturday, May 30th from nine to noon at the North Kingsville Presbyterian Church. All are invited not just officers. Hope to see you there.





Ashtabula Times

MERGING COMMITTEE

The Merging Committee successfully completed the preparations for the closing services of East Side and Trinity and the opening service of Unity.

The Committee has completed the work on the Church Bylaws, the slate of officers and the Terms of Call for our Congregational Meeting on April 19th, 2026.

The Committee has also completed the Manual of Operations, joint budget and financial plans in preparation for the First Session Meeting on May 6th.

The Committee has completed its tasks and will make its final report to Session and ask for their dissolution. Thanks to Craig Reiter, Mary Belding, Beth Dougherty, Pam Bloom, Edie Makynen, Ellen Jacobs, Cathy Burnham and Rosemary Peck.



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.

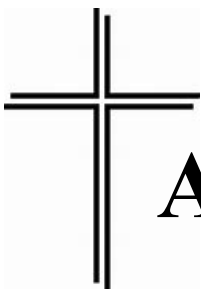
MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday, May 10, is Mother's Day. Blessings to all the mothers in the world.

Please wear a hat to church service that day.

Special "thank you" to Sarah Wetzel for providing hats for others!





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 office.

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 June. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact him directly or leave a message in the Church

RUMMAGE SALE

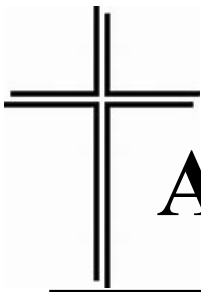
If you have any donations for our September Rummage sale at our East Side Campus we are beginning to take them. Please contact Becki Cleveland to make arrangements for donating gently used items, no clothes accepted. Becki will also be able to on a limited basis arrange pickup. The sale itself will be on Friday, September 4th and Saturday, September 5th. Thanks for your support.



THANK YOU



Thank you to all those who planned the closing and opening services and the dinners afterward. Whether you planned or contributed or attended, everyone is appreciated for all the parts coming together. The services and the food were outstanding and the joy was contagious. Many were excited at seeing the Past Ministers and members. Thanks again for all that you did.



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,

Throughout the course of our lives, we have received gifts from family and friends. Whether at Christmastime or our birthday or a special occasion, we found treasures lying on our desks, under evergreen trees or next to the birthday cake. But while we as a community love to dote on our associates, we also place an emphasis on the “Thank You” given back. How many thank you cards have been written by a newly married couple for every wedding gift? How many thank you hugs were given to those who surprised you during a party at work? How many appreciative notes were given to loved ones for the flowers or candy on Valentine’s Day? We give and do things for those we love and we give back gratitude for the gifts given.

The Psalmist also knows the gifts that have been given and chooses to sing the “Thank You,” O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. To be good in English implies a state of passiveness, being good, but in Hebrew it means to make good. The Psalmist ever in a state of stress or crisis crying out for rescues or well-being has been met by God and God’s goodness has rescued and restored as a gift from God and the Psalmist sings back gratitude. Having been given to, the Psalmist chooses to give back a gift of song in gratitude and thanksgiving for what God has done. Giving to results in giving back.

As I sit here at my desk almost exactly four years from when I started as the Installed Teaching Elder at East Side, I reflect on all that God has done and God has given to me and to us. From the tentative steps in yoking together and having two services, to the suggestion to try a summer worshiping together bouncing around sanctuaries. From meshing a couple of committees together to dinners and picnics. From the decision to merge to the process of discerning which building best suits our needs. From the revising of the by-laws and Manual of Operations to the closing and opening services. From our beginning to our time now, God has been very good to us. God has renewed and restored us giving us a new energy and excitement over these last few years.

Maybe now is the time for us to give back to God our “Thank You.” We have had the gifts and the mighty wonders of God, now is the time for us to give thanks the LORD. With gratitude and thanksgiving, we gather to sing God’s praises not just for what God did at the Red Sea or on Calvary, but what God has done here among us. The very story of God’s love and faithfulness has become incarnate in our time and in our history. God has and is loving and faithful to us and we have seen and experienced it. This is and will be our motivation for our worship and work. We now have something to sing about in gratitude, and we now have a blessing to bless others with. God has been good to us, now let us come sing the LORD.

My friends, I know we are not yet finished, not that we ever will be finished, we do have some material things to work out. But while we have reached the end of one stage in our journey together, we cannot let this be the end of our engagement or commitment. We can pause and reflect but not end our worship and work. We can rejoice and give thanks but not cease our discernment and forward movement. We can take a rest and sabbath, (I know I need to), but we know that another stage of our Exodus begins ahead of us. Let us give thanks for the LORD is good but also realize that goodness presses us forward. Let us send God our “Thank You” for all that God has done to get us here and let us press forward to what God has next. Amen.

In Christ,

Rev. Mark