



TRINITY TOPICS

The Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

POTTSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

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March/April 2025

Musings.....March-April 2025

The impacts of our worship practices are to move us beyond the walls of the church. With a sprinkle of ash, we are reminded of death. With the lament of Isaiah, we are called to change behavior. With the tune of the psalmist, we are encouraged to see life in the strength of the Almighty. And in words of Jesus as written by Matthew, we are told how our religion and worship are to be accomplished.

Lent has arrived, like the proverbial thief in the night, unseen, unexpected, and yet offering opportunities to be more, to do more, and to serve more. And it arrives all wrapped up in a nice neat package of 40 short days, as winter begins her release and spring offers welcomed warmth and light.

Lent is unique in the church. It does bring characteristics which are not typically considered during other seasons. Lent brings an established time to pause, contemplate and return to better practices. Lent gives us an established world-wide occasion to repent for our lack of love and gives opportunities to return to God, refreshed, forgiven, and renewed. Lent prepares us to recall the great acts of the life of Christ, leading to the Resurrection. Those intimate steps we hear during Holy Week prepare us to fully celebrate our Easter Joy. And the anticipation of Pentecost with its fire and wind will bring us into the life of the early church, sending us too out into the world to announce the good news of the Savior.

Prayer and fasting are not the only practices which we are called into during Lent. Service in the Name of Christ can also give us perspectives on the struggles and successes of our fellow humans. Volunteering for organizations which lift our brothers and sisters in their distress and anxieties is another way to celebrate the peace of Christ. Look around and see where the needs are, then do something! Visit a shut-in, take some time to help at a local nursing home, call our health advocate, Cathy Clouser for suggestions on where you can help. Living into service is a great way to focus on others, and celebrate the nearness of the Kingdom of God. One never knows what impact one can have!

Your brother in Christ,

Kurt+

Trinity Church's Mission Statement

"Living, loving, sharing in the name of Jesus Christ"

Vision Statement

"Honoring the past as we build a strong foundation for the future, while sharing our Christian faith through service to the community."



Ash Wednesday Services - March 5, 2025

12 noon — Healing and Distribution of Ashes in St. Luke's Chapel.
7 pm — Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Distribution of Ashes and Stations.
Ashes in a Flash at different locations during the day.

Thursday Soup, Salad and Service

Each Thursday in Lent will have a light supper at 5:30 pm followed by a short service at 6 pm. This is the schedule:

- March 6 at Holy Apostles
- March 13 at St. James
- March 20 at St. John's
- March 27 at TEC
- April 3 at St. James
- April 10 at TEC



There is a signup sheet for March 27 and April 10 in the hallway behind the main altar. Two Soups, Two Salads, Bread/Butter and a service leader will be needed.

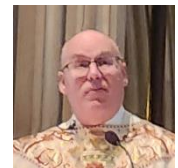


Vigil At the Altar of Repose

On Maundy Thursday, after the 7 pm service, there will be a Vigil in St. Luke's Chapel from 8 until midnight with Compline at 11:45 pm. There is a signup sheet on the board behind the main altar.

Father Tim

What a blessing! Father Timothy Albright has asked if he could celebrate with us for two Sundays a month! The Vestry gave a resounding YES. Father Kurt will lead our Eucharist on the 2nd and 4th Sundays and Father Tim on the 1st and 3rd. When there is a 5th Sunday in the month, one of our Lay Leaders will prepare a Morning Prayer service. Truly a gift for us here at Trinity.



Advent Project

Thinking ahead to the fall of 2025— if you happen to see travel-size items during the year, please donate them at any time and we will store them at the church in anticipation of the 2025 project. Please NO body wash or soaps — the nursing homes do not want them and no partially used items. Thank you again and God bless you all for making this so successful.

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour is held on the second Sunday of each month. We invite a family or individual to sign up to bring a treat to share for fellowship after the service. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway behind the altar. Individuals or families are needed for Pentecost on June 8.





THE MUSIC CORNER

by Cora A. Gamelin-Osenbach

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! Allen Artz has graciously offered to prepare another Organ concert/Christmas Carol Sing as a fundraiser for the church. This was very welcome and successful in 2024. Sunday, December 14, 2025, at 2 pm is the date. December 21 will be a weather date if necessary. Many thanks to Allen for his generosity to Trinity. Stay tuned for more details.

United Thank Offering

As we approach the Lenten season, please consider giving up that extra coffee at Dunkin or any other small pleasure and putting that money into your UTO box. When we have our Ingathering Sunday in October your seemingly small donations will combine with many others to provide a large difference for many in the world and Northeastern PA. Thank you in advance.



Trinity's 200th Anniversary

In 2027 we will be celebrating our parish's 200th anniversary! It seems like a long way off, but it will be here sooner than we think. A committee needs to be formed to discuss possible events for this momentous celebration. A liaison with the Historical Society should be part of this. If you or any friends of Trinity are interested in serving on a committee or have any ideas for events, please speak to any member of the Vestry to begin this process. Many thanks.



Easter Flowers

Donations for Easter Flowers may be made by completing this form and returning it with your contribution by Sunday, April 6, 2025



Flower donations received after April 6 will go into the general flower fund.

In Memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

Given by: _____

Envelope # _____

Please return requests by Sunday, April 6, 2025.

Please Print



Summer Reading Camp 2025

Summer Reading Camp will be held the week of July 14-18 in the undercroft of Trinity. Our theme for camp this summer will be *Exploring Schuylkill County*. The campers will learn about our native heritage with Porcupine Pat, explore our waterways and rivers, and learn about the history of the Pottsville Maroons. All of these experiences will be coordinated with our classroom reading activities to provide the children with opportunities to have fun while improving their reading skills.

Approximately 30 children attend camp from the Pottsville and St. Clair Area Schools Districts, Gillingham, Assumption, and Schuylkill County Child Development. These children have experienced some difficulties with reading and have been referred by their teacher or reading specialist. Attending reading camp helps them retain the skills they learned during the school year by practicing their skills in a more relaxed, less pressure-filled environment than what they may encounter in school. Most of the children who attend camp return year after year until they age out after third grade.

The staff of Summer Reading Camp would like to thank you for your support of this ministry over the years. As we prepare for the new camp season, these are ways that you could continue to support us:

- Volunteer to spend some time with us as a classroom teacher or assistant. We need a few more volunteers this year.
- Support our Lunches for Learners program or our Books for Young Readers by donating to cover meals or activity packs.
- Attend our Demonstration Cooking Dinner which will be held on April 26 (see flier). You will not only enjoy a delicious dinner and an enjoyable evening but you will help support our program.
- Please pray for us so we have a safe and successful camp as we provide support for these children.

Please contact Barb Tokarz at 570-691-5113 if you have any questions or need more information about camp or the dinner.

Family Game Night

Family Game Night is scheduled for May 7 at 6:00 in Trinity's Parish Hall. Families are invited to share a meal and learn about the activities that the children will engage in during Summer Reading Camp. Game Night Activities will include:

- Fun games and activities for campers and their siblings.
- A chance to meet the teachers and learn more about camp.
- A workshop for parents about reading aloud with children.
- Pizza and snacks
- Take home books and activities
- Resources for parents

If you are interested in attending family game night to learn more about camp, please contact Barb Tokarz at 570-691-5113.



Trinity Episcopal Church is trying to utilize Remind for church closings.

This is available to anyone with an email or cell phone number.

It's very easy to set up, simply open web browser and follow steps below or on your cell phone open text messages and type in number :

81010

then in message type in **@2ac24ae**

It will then ask to confirm you want to receive text messages from Remind.

Now, when the church is closed due to inclement weather you will be notified by text or email.

If you do not have an email or cell number, you will still be called on your house phone.

We are trying to work smarter not harder and prevent Cora from having to call everyone if possible.

Please take this flyer with you and set the information up following worship.

If you prefer to have Kristy set it up, simply call the office and she can add your information manually.


Pick a way to receive messages for **Trinity Episcopal Church**:

A **If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.**

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/2ac24ae

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.




B **If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.**

Text the message **@2ac24ae** to the number **81010**.

If you're having trouble with **81010**, try texting **@2ac24ae** to **(415) 749-9891**.

* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/2ac24ae on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

**TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND
BAKE SHOP VI WILL PRESENT
A DEMONSTRATION COOKING DINNER
AND WINE PAIRING
FOR THE BENEFIT OF TRINITY'S SUMMER READING CAMP**

**APRIL 26 @ 6:00 PM
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH PARISH HALL
200 S. SECOND ST POTTSVILLE**

FEATURING A PASTA MAKING DEMONSTRATION

FIRST COURSE

ASSORTED DIPS WITH BAKE SHOP VI FRESH BREAD

SECOND COURSE

PASTA WITH CHICKEN, MUSHROOMS AND PINE NUTS

THIRD COURSE

MACAROONS

**BREAD BASKET WITH BAKE SHOP'S DELICIOUS BREADS
WINE TASTING IS INCLUDED WITH EACH COURSE**

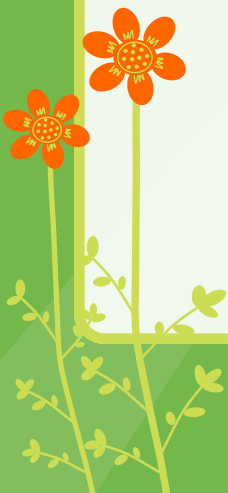
\$40.00 per person

Tickets available at Bake Shop Vi

22 N Centre St. 570-205-6049

Or by calling Barb Tokarz

570-691-5113



News from Marion C. Price

AARP DRIVER SAFETY COURSE 2025

Marion Price Trust will be sponsoring a safe driver's course this spring. Become a safer, more confident driver and by completing the course you may receive a multi-year discount on your auto insurance. You can refresh your driving skills and knowledge of the rules and hazards of the road, while also reducing your chances of receiving a traffic violation or getting into an accident. The AARP Driver Safety Course is specifically designed for drivers aged 50 and older.

Some things that will be covered in the course include:

- *Research based safe driving strategies
- *Information on the effects of medication on driving
- *Preventative measures to reduce driver distractions
- *Techniques for handling left turns, right-of-way, and roundabouts
- *State-specific rules and regulations including construction zones, child safety seats, school buses, cellphone use and more

There have been changes made to the curriculum of the course so we will be offering the full 8-hour course, not the refresher class. This will also open the class up for people who have never taken the course before. The course will be held at Holy Apostle Episcopal Church, 307 E Hancock St. St Clair on Thursday, April 24th and Thursday, May 1st. On both days the class will be held from 8:00 AM - 12 noon. The class is open to the public and the cost of the course is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members. MPTF will cover the cost for Episcopalians. Please contact Cathy Clouser in the office at (570) 621-3220 or mptfund@gmail.com to register or with any questions. Please complete registration by Wednesday, April 16th to ensure the instructor has enough materials.

TAX-AIDE PROGRAM FOR SENIORS

Diakon Community Services, a nonprofit organization based in Pottsville, is partnering with the AARP Tax-Aide program again this year. Tax-Aide is a free service that is available to taxpayers with low to moderate income, with special attention to those over age 60. This service is by appointment only. All taxpayers must provide a photo ID and social security card. AARP only prepares simple returns and can handle pay from a job, Social Security, pensions, dividends, interest, capital gains/losses, property taxes/rent rebates and more. They cannot handle income from rental properties, debt forgiveness or out-of-state returns.

Appointments can be made for Feb 7th through April 4th at 23 Meadowbrook Center, Route 183, Schuylkill Haven. To schedule an appointment call Diakon at (570) 624-3018.

SCAM ALERT!!

Utility Scams- Each winter, criminals pose as utility company representatives, claiming missed payments and threatening to shut off service unless payment is made immediately. If you receive a surprise call like this hang up the phone. These scammers hope to create panic long enough to get a payment from you.

Unknown number- Don't answer unknown numbers, as it could be the start of a scam. Let the phone ring and have the call go to voicemail. If you choose to answer, let the caller speak first as many scammers use an auto dialer that connects to a live person when the call is answered. That brief delay before the caller speaks could signal a scam. Check with your service provider for options on blocking scam calls. Remember that when someone is offering something "too good to be true"It probably is!



Charles Baber Cemetery Preservation Trust

C. Field – March \April 2025

The Best Things In Life

Some people say that the best things in life are “free”. Others will argue that having everything good in our lives like a home, children, a car, and travel vacations can be quite expensive. Actually, both options are correct. One opinion applies to material things and the other applies to things of nature and gifts from God like the breath we take, a rainbow, a waterfall, the oceans, the mountains, etc. The Charles Baber Cemetery wholly embraces the theory that the best things in life are free. After coming off a hard frigid icy winter, the months of March, April, and even May, are a testament to the many gifts of nature that await the visitor. The days are longer, birds can be heard singing in the trees or seen hopping on the ground in search of worms. Squirrels are scampering playfully up and down the trees. The sun seems to sparkle off the leaves and grass. The biting wind has gotten warm. The icy rain is now tepid. The entire cemetery is aglow with the pastel colors of Easter.

Our Easter colors are most noticeable with the fuchsia flowers on the many red buds that have been planted in the past 5 years. They can be found inside the 16th St. entrance, in a small line inside the main gate to the right, and near the little spring at the bottom of the hill. Next, we have the flowering dogwoods and the kousa dogwoods dispersed throughout the property. They are in varying shades of white and pink with the kousa flower pointed and the flowering dogwood curved. Then we have three kinds of cherry trees. Our real old ones, the black cherry, with barks that look like crushed burnt cornflakes are very tall and thin and their tiny white flowers are way up high at the top of the tree. We have the kwanza cherry on the east side of the pond with a double-bloom pink flower. We have one weeping cherry to the right of the main entrance with long strands of tiny white flowers that sway gently in the breeze. New to our property are the Japanese ivory silk white lilacs. We have two older ones by the barn, but the new babies are at the top of the inside stone wall. There are a few callery pears with their white blossoms by the barn. Near the main entrance, there is one coffee tree with tiny white flowers, one sprawling magnolia with huge white and pink flowers, one horse chestnut with its long cone-shaped tiny yellow flower clusters, and one mature tall tulip tree with yellow flowers with a green band that looks like tulips. Later in the Spring, the Siberian elm by the Comloquoy mausoleum develops clusters of tiny pale cream\yellow disk-shaped flowers with the slippery elm having light green disks.

Around the chapel and going down the hill, our sunset red maple leaves sprout as dark burgundy bunched floral clusters that give way to red and yellow catkins before changing their leaf coloring to green. Our many other older red maples have growing leaves of crimson and burgundy while the Japanese dwarf maple grows lacy green leaves that don't change to burgundy until the fall. Throughout the property, our red, white, pin, swamp, and chestnut oaks and the box elder all have dangling catkins of assorted strand lengths. The sassafras, sweet gum, and black locust have dangling floral clusters that sometimes look like catkins. Other trees like the lindens have leafy bracts with dangling yellow-greenish flowers, while the Norway and sycamore maple have dangling flowers like the lindens, but without the bract leaf.

By the chapel, we have purple azaleas. And in the mulch bed around the chapel, we have red tulips and yellow daffodils. Our ground is covered in violets, buttercups, and tiny blue flowers that I don't know their name. Unfortunately, by summer the ground is loaded with thousands of dandelions. Do take the time to notice the many flowers growing in the Scatter Garden. Particularly pretty are the thick clusters of white flowers that surround the angel in the middle section of the garden.

Come and enjoy the Spring Easter colors and partake of the best of the free things in life.



Upcoming Cemetery Events -March through May

Early March -free tree pruning class.

Instructors: Frank Snyder and Joe Orłowski. Approximately 1-1\2 hours in length. They provide the cutting saws and tools. Weather dependent. Dress warm. The date is not determined yet.

Ash Wednesday, Wednesday, March 5th:

Free ash imposition. Walk in or drive through. Hours 9-11:30. Inside the main entrance.

6:30AM Easter Sunday Sunrise Service, April 20th

In or outside the Chapel of the Resurrection depending on the weather. The Rev. Dr. Kurt K. Kovalovich presiding.

Memorial Day

Each year for many, many years, our 580 Veterans' flags were replaced by Pottsville's 4th grade students. The flag replacement by the students was always followed by a program explaining the significance of Memorial Day, prayers, the playing of taps and a 21-gun salute by retired volunteer veterans. Since COVID-19 and because of a decrease in available servicemen, this is no longer done by the school district. The Leo club helped for two years but is now defunct. Last year, Mark Weise, a dog walker, and 8 Facebook volunteers replaced all 580 flags. We are hopeful that we can get Mark and his band of volunteers to help us again this year.

Arbor Day

We plant 6-10 new trees every year for Arbor Day. We offer them at a sponsorship of \$400 per tree. The tree can be in memory of or celebration of someone or something. A new baby tree costs about \$140 per tree. The money difference between cost and sponsorship is what is paid to the tree-cutting company to remove dead or diseased trees or dangling snapped limbs. Last year between a windstorm, snowstorm, and mini tornado, the cemetery incurred over \$20,750 in tree damage with only 50% covered by insurance because the branches fell on memorial markers.

Our Arbor Day tree celebration and blessing is on Friday, April 25th at 2PM. We will be planting 6 trees this year. The trees will be assigned on a first-come, first-sponsor basis. The 6 baby trees will be blessed by the Rev. Dr. Kurt Kovalovich. It is a beautiful and environmentally gratifying service and is open and free to the public. If you wish to sponsor a tree, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office along with your sponsorship check made payable to the "**Charles Baber Preservation Trust**". Even if you don't sponsor a tree, come and enjoy the day!

2025 Arbor Day Replacement Trees - \$400 Sponsorship

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____

Given in memory of: _____

Given in thanksgiving for: _____

CALENDAR

MARCH

- SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND-9AM SERVICE-- BURY ALLELULAS
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5TH-ASH WEDNESDAY
12 NOON-HEALING & DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES
7 PM- HE, RITE II, ASHES
- THURSDAY, MARCH 6TH-5:30 PM SOUP, SALAD AND SERVICE @ HOLY APOSTLES
- SATURDAY-MARCH 8TH-SPRING AHEAD
TURN CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR
- SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH-9 AM SERVICE-LENT I
COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING WORSHIP
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12- 12 NOON HEALING SERVICE
- THURSDAY, MARCH 12- 5:30 PM SOUP, SALAD AND SERVICE @ ST. JAMES
- SUNDAY, MARCH 16- 9 AM SERVICE-LENT II
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19-12 NOON HEALING SERVICE
- THURSDAY, MARCH 20-5:30 PM SOUP, SALAD AND SERVICE @ ST. JOHN'S
- SUNDAY, MARCH 23- 9 AM SERVICE, LENT III
WITH HEALING
10:30 AM VESTRY MEETING
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26-12 NOON HEALING SERVICE
- THURSDAY, MARCH 27- 5:30 PM SOUP, SALAD AND SERVICE @ TEC
- SUNDAY, MARCH 30-9 AM SERVICE- LENT VI

APRIL

- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2- 12 NOON -HEALING SERVICE
- THURSDAY, APRIL 3-5:30 PM-SOUP, SALAD, AND SERVICE @ ST. JAMES
- SUNDAY, APRIL 6-9AM SERVICE, LENT V
- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 12 NOON- HEALING SERVICE
- THURSDAY, APRIL 10-5:30PM-SOUP, SALAD AND SERVICE @ TEC
- SUNDAY, APRIL 13-9 AM SERVICE-PALM SUNDAY
- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16-12 NOON-HEALING SERVICE
- THURSDAY, APRIL 17-7 PM MAUNDY THURSDAY
8PM-12 MIDNIGHT-VIGIL
- FRIDAY, APRIL 18-12 NOON-GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS
- SATURDAY, APRIL 19-7PM EASTER VIGIL
- SUNDAY, APRIL 20-6:15 AM SUNRISE SERVICE @CBC
9 AM FESTAL EUCHARIST @TEC
- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23-NO HEALING SERVICE
- SATURDAY, APRIL 26-DEMONSTRATION DINNER FOR SUMMER READING CAMP
- SUNDAY, APRIL 27-9AM SERVICE AND HEALING
10:30 AM-VESTRY MEETING
- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30-12 NOON-HEALING SERVICE

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
200 S. SECOND STREET, POTTSVILLE, PA

Trinity Episcopal Church

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Pottsville, PA 17901
Phone: 570.622.8720
Fax: 570.621.3221
Return Service Requested

**Deadline
For
May/June "Topics"
Tuesday, Apr. 15, 2025**



March Birthdays

3 - Alexander Costa
7 - Kaitlin Polcrack, The Rev. Dr. Kurt Kovalovich
9 - The Rev. Dolores Smith
12 - Elaine Howe
16 - Tom Curtis, Ruth Bohnenblust
21 - Waverly I. Bacon III
23 - Henry Beaver
29 - George Stone, Jr.

April Birthdays

1 - Kristen Doyle
2 - Sylvia Nabholz
3 - Frank Grabowski
5 - Mallory Hopkins
7 - Angelique Bacon Woodward
9 - Wesley Bacon, John Thomas Curtis, III
10 - Connor Hopkins
11 - Janet Curtis, Gabriel Fitzpatrick
12 - Cora Gamelin-Osenbach
13 - Lee Felsburg
14 - Darlene Bowler, Brenda Lindenmuth
15 - Braeden Jones
16 - Robert Emery
18 - Angela Brennan, Everly Boyer, Giovanni Lantonio,
Luca Lantonio
19 - Mark Bacon
27 - Elena Jolee Holden, Maegan Frederick
28 - Susan Pozza
29 - Holly Portland MacLea