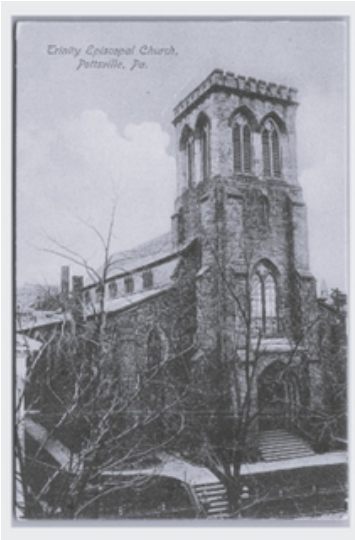




Trinity Topics
THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
POTTSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA
PHONE: 570-622-8720
WWW.TRINITYEPISCOPALPOTTSVILLEPA.ORG
EMAIL: EPISCOPALCH200@GMAIL.COM
Sept/Oct 2026



EKKLISIA: (FROM THE Greek: ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ):" A called-out people"

On September 3, 1827, several people met to organize the development of a congregation which would lead to the construction of what is now known as "Trinity Episcopal Church". The congregation will be 200 years old in 2027. Not the church building. Not the lovely façade, location, bells, books, pews, windows, or furnishings. The congregation. Therefore, we will begin a year-long commemoration and celebration of this congregation which will be 200 years old next fall. The church, the members of which are those "called out", include all of us present today.

Towards the end of the meeting, which established a congregation of Episcopalians in the village of Pottsville, the vestry resolved that it be "necessary and expedient that a house of public worship be erected as soon as means can be obtained for this purpose. "St. Luke's Episcopal Church rose in a prominent place in the growing borough of Pottsville. Despite the zeal of those first vestrymen, and the enthusiasm of the members of the church congregation, there was never a guarantee that the first church in Pottsville would continue. Financially, the original church was deemed to be unsuccessful, and a reorganization occurred, which resulted in the development of a new church after the destruction of the original St. Luke's building. Trinity Episcopal Church rose and has stood proudly on Centre Street in the now city of Pottsville. Yet, this anniversary celebration is fundamentally not about the stones, the steps, the carvings, nor even the graves found hidden away within the confines of the edifice.

The celebration is about the people and their faith and their service.

In the 28th chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew, Jesus instructs his followers to "go, teach, and baptize." For 200 years, the many folks who worshipped at Trinity Episcopal Church have done just that. We are the descendants of those faithful Warriors for Christ. And God willing, in the year of Our Lord, 2227, the congregation then will look back at us and declare, "Well done, good and faithful servants".

Come. Do something bold and worthy of the name Christian: INVITE OTHERS to come too! Join in. Participate and rejoice in this celebration!

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Kurt

🙏 Healing Service Resumes 🙏

Healing Service will resume on Wednesday,
September 23, 2026, at 12:00 noon.

All are welcome to join us for this quiet and
meaningful service of prayer, reflection, and healing.

📍 St. Luke's Chapel

📅 Wednesday's

🕒 12:00 PM

Come and experience God's peace,
comfort, and strength.

🛒 BOYER'S GIVE-BACK PROGRAM UPDATE

The Boyer's Key Tag Program has ended, but the
good news is there's a new program in place!

When shopping at Boyer's, you'll now be asked to
provide your cell phone number to sign up for the
new program.

Need help getting set up?

Please see Carla Kauffman or Dawn Burns for
assistance.

Thank you for continuing to help give back to
Trinity Episcopal Church with your everyday
grocery purchases! ❤️

Safe Trick or Treat--Year #6!

Trinity will again be participating in Pottsville's
Downtown Safe Trick or Treat on Tuesday,
October 27 from 4-6 pm. We are planning to
distribute 750 bags again this year.

Here's how you can help:



1. Beginning **September 6th**, please contribute
snacks or candy for the treat bags. **Place your
donations on the piano in the lounge.**
2. Please come to a coffee hour on **Sunday, October
11th** and **stay to help pack treat bags**. Many hands
make light work. Last year, a team of 12 packed 600
bags in about an hour!
3. Please consider helping out at the giveaway,
which is held on Tuesday, October 27th from 4-6 pm.
We have a great time out front, greeting the children
and their parents.

Questions? Please see Lea Bortner or call (570) 516-4726.

☕ Coffee Hour at Trinity! 🍪

Once again, we plan to offer Coffee Hour on
the second Sunday of each month, whenever
possible!

Want to help? Check the sign-up sheet on the
bulletin board behind the high altar.

You don't need to bring a feast! An
individual or family can bring just a few
goodies to share as we gather for fellowship,
conversation, and good company. ❤️

☕ Come for worship, stay for fellowship!

UTO SUNDAYS – OCTOBER 4 & 11

As we look forward to cooler days and the leaves changing
colors, let's not forget those who are less fortunate—both
here in NEPA and around the world.

Through the generosity of the United Thank Offering
(UTO), people are given hope and support when they need
it most.

Thank you for your generosity in the past, and please
continue to help by:

- 💙 Placing your extra change in the little blue UTO box
- 💙 Planning to give a check on UTO Sundays – October 4
& 11

Every gift, big or small, can make a difference.
God bless you, and thank you for helping spread hope!





Anniversary Kick-Off

♪♪ HYMNS, HISTORY & 200 YEARS OF WORSHIP! ♪♪

Join us **Sunday, September 20** as we officially kick off Trinity Episcopal Church's 200th Anniversary Celebration!

🏛️ **10:00 AM** – Eucharist--Please note the special time.

🎵 **11:00 AM** – Hymn Sing-Along
Sing your favorite hymns, chosen by you and our sister parishes. Favorites will be compiled and sung by the congregation!

🍴 Catered Luncheon
After the hymn sing, join us in the Parish Hall for a catered luncheon.

We are also excited to welcome priests and deacons who have served Trinity Episcopal Church in the past as we begin this year-long celebration.

Come make a joyful noise as we celebrate 200 years of worship, faith, and community.

Trinity Episcopal Church | 1827–2027

Everyone is welcome—come celebrate with us!

History Committee

Letters were sent out inviting the families of Charles Baber Cemetery and Trinity to the Special Service for the commemoration of the Faithfully Departed with a Reading of the Necrology on Sunday, Nov. 1st at 4 pm at Trinity. Many thanks to Kristy Sarge for all her help compiling and mailing the letters.

Watch for “History Moments “ in the weekly bulletin beginning on September 20th and continuing weekly throughout the year. Also, the committee will occasionally share photos and items from Trinity and other Episcopal churches in Schuylkill County.

Did you know that in its 200 years of ministry, there were at least six chapels that were served by Trinity's priests and deacons? They were located in: Mount Carbon, the Fishbach section of Pottsville, Forestville, Mechanicsville, Minersville, and a separate congregation at The Chapel of the Resurrection at Charles Baber Cemetery.

How can you help? If you have photos of these chapels or activities that occurred there, please email them to Ljbortner@comcast.net, or bring them into the church office where Kristy will scan them for use by the history committee.

Thank you from the History Committee: Lea Bortner, Carol Field, Father Kurt, John Giansello, Peter Bortner, Jane Pristiskutch and Norm Kauffman

🎵 A Celebration in Music! 🎵

Join us Sunday, October 25 at 3:00 PM for a special Organ Concert featuring
F. Allen Artz, III

🎵 Come enjoy the beautiful sounds of one of the area's largest pipe organs as we celebrate Trinity's 200th Anniversary!

💙 \$10 donation requested

Bring a friend, enjoy an afternoon of incredible music, and help us celebrate 200 years of faith, music & community!

📅 Sunday, October 25

🕒 3:00 PM

📍 Trinity Episcopal Church

Come celebrate 200 years with us! 🎵

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY & NECROLOGY SERVICE

Join us at Trinity Episcopal Church on Sunday, November 1 as we remember, honor, and celebrate those who have gone before us.

🏛️ 9:00 AM – All Saints Service

🍲 Following the service – Soup Sale!

Come grab some delicious homemade soup and support Trinity!

🕯️ 4:00 PM – Commemoration of the Faithfully Departed & Reading of the Necrology

Enjoy a meaningful service featuring special music, followed by light refreshments.

Come worship, remember, celebrate, and share in fellowship with us. ❤️



Pottsville Kiwanis is hosting 2nd Annual Children's coat drive. Donations of winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and winter accessories are requested. If you can donate, please contact Henry or Ann Beaver at 570-985-7262.

🎄❤️ SHARING JOY THIS CHRISTMAS – ADVENT PROJECT ❤️🎄

Once again, Trinity Episcopal Church is excited to begin our Advent Project, bringing a little extra joy and comfort to residents of local nursing homes.

This is our 4th year collecting items that may seem simple, but can make a big difference in the daily lives of nursing home residents. Last year, we were blessed to deliver 100 bags to two local facilities! 🎁

We are collecting travel-size or smaller bottles of:

- Shampoo & conditioner
- Body lotion & hand lotion
- Mouthwash
- Bathroom wipes
- Lip balm
- Combs & nail files
- Disposable razors
- Travel tissues
- Toothpaste & toothbrushes

🔴 PLEASE NOTE: No soaps or body wash.

📅 Collection Dates: October 18 – December 6

📍 Collection boxes will be located at each entrance of TEC.

Thank you in advance for helping us share joy, kindness, and goodwill with those who may need it most this Christmas season.

Every little gift can make a big difference!



Summer Reading Camp News

Summer Reading Camp was held during the week of July 13-17 with 20 children attending. The children enjoyed reading activities and enrichment programs that celebrated America in honor of our 250th birthday.

Highlights of camp were a musical program by The Troubles that featured music throughout our history. The children enjoyed singing along and accompanying the group on rhythm instruments. A trip to the Schuylkill County Historical Society was an enlightening event. The children learned about the history of our county from the time of our native people to the present. They especially enjoyed seeing the displays of “old-time objects,” such as a rotary phone, Victrola, and a pedal sewing machine, and trying on the dress-up clothes in the Civil War room. Pottsville Library’s children’s librarian provided a story hour and craft at Trinity that was a huge success. Camp concluded with a musical performance of songs that the children learned during the week for their families.

We have already begun to plan for our next reading camp, which will be held July 12-16, 2027. The theme for camp will be “Flutter and Bloom” and will highlight our pollinators and the plants that support them. We are planning some exciting activities, such as a visit from the Butterfly Lady and a field trip to a pollinator garden.

Many thanks to all in our parish family who made this camp a success.

Demonstration Cooking Dinner

The Summer Reading Camp and the 200th Anniversary Committee are working together to present a Demonstration Cooking Dinner on November 7 at 5:30 by Chef Brian Setlock of Bake Shop VI. Profits from the dinner will be split between Reading Camp and the Anniversary Committee to support Trinity’s mission.

The dinner’s theme will be A New Twist on the Holidays since many people are stuck for ways to make the holiday meals exciting yet simple to prepare. Brian will demonstrate new recipes and provide a meal that will get your guests talking about your ability in the kitchen. Wine pairings and recipes will be included, as well as his popular bread basket.

Brian is working on finalizing the menu, and it will be published within the next few weeks. Tickets will be \$40.00-\$45.00 depending upon the menu selections and will include an appetizer, main course, and dessert. Come join us for this fun and entertaining evening. See Barb Tokarz with questions.





Charles Baber Cemetery Preservation Trust

Boisterous and Jubilant

C. Field – Sept-Oct 2026

Fall is a boisterous and happy season for the trees at the cemetery as they celebrate the last vestiges of life before winter arrives. Whether looking at the cemetery from the outside along Market Street and 16th Street or walking or driving the roads and paths inside the property, the trees are busy showing off their autumn finery. Take, for instance, our long line of European hornbeam along the Market Street walkway. They portray a line of soldiers standing with helmets of gold. As the weeks progress, the gold melts down the tree to produce armory and breastplates of gold as well. The red maples and pin oaks on the east side hang over the wall to attack the drivers with their red and pink leaves blowing in the light breeze as if to wave to the passersby. Not to be outdone, the London planetrees along the west wall turn their leaves a pale-yellow color so the drivers can better see their magnificent multi-colored smooth striped bark of grey, lime, yellow, and brown.

Of course, the sunset red maple trees at the 16th Street entrance have already engaged the visitors with their reddish-orange leaves, which continue to beckon the visitor onward as the red maple tree-lined road runs upward to the chapel. And dotted throughout the property, we have our elegant and gracefully dressed dwarf red maples with their fine lacey leaves of deep burgundy. Also retaining a burgundy coloring are the regular red maples and the copper beech. The many Norway maples scattered through the property have a pale-yellow leaf that looks like the sprinkling of yellow fairy dust as the leaves float gently to the ground. And mostly in the middle sections of the cemetery on the upper level, we have our tall, clownish golden ginkgo giants with their branches pointing every which way.

The lower level has a different color show with the dawn redwoods to the east of the pond and the cypress around the pond, taking on earth tones of burnt orange and rust. The star-shaped leaves of the sweet gum by the dawn redwood are multicolored with red, yellow, and green striping all on the same leaf. We have the large patches of tangerine coloring on our sugar maples also to the east of the pond. And as with the London planetree, the Siberian elm, the hybrid elm, and the slippery elm all take on a straw yellow leaf coloring to better show off their multicolored barks; however, the Siberian elms are the real showoffs because their bands of gray, rust, and green on the bark are very wide and prominent. The hillside leading up the hill to the middle school parking lot takes on its own band of coloring as its trees are a mixture of sassafras, American beech, red oak, red maple, black walnut, locust, Norway maple, box elder, and vermilion. The American beech are more shrubs than trees, and they retain their brown leaves through the winter.

The pin oaks at the 16th Street entrance, the swamp white oak by the pond, the red oak by the chapel, and the white oak inside the main entrance aren't buying into this parade of flamboyant dress. They hang back and stubbornly won't change until the onset of winter, with some holding their leaves through the winter. Their cavalier attitude makes it difficult to gather the fallen leaves for removal because the snow falls before they can be vacuumed up.

The fall season at the cemetery is by far the most jubilant and boisterous for the trees. It is a celebration of life and an acceptance that their flamboyant color show will soon end. If you can spare a half hour out of your busy schedule, you won't be disappointed in a quick trip around the property. Come and share in the joy of our trees' audacious fall presentation.

Chapel Renovations

Work has begun on the first of the chapel's three primary renovation projects, which is the exterior stone pressure washing and stone pointing. Pioneer Pole Building's owner, Bob Green, has been kind enough to give us the use of one of his hydraulic lifts, which saved the cemetery \$5,000. The pressure washing is about done, but the lift that was lent to us is not high enough to reach the bell tower and the steeple. We are waiting to see if Pioneer Pole Building can let us have a higher lift to reach the tower. The tedious and time-consuming part now begins of applying mortar to the many crevices and some large holes between the stones. Many more crevices have now appeared after the pressure washing.

Also, by the end of August or the beginning of September, we will begin the work of replacing the now 50-year-old deceased oil burner. Funds on both of these projects have been solicited for the past three years, and we have solicited charitable trusts as well. Please note that Trinity Church is not paying for these project renovations. The church and the cemetery maintain separate checking accounts, and each entity pays its own expenses and maintains its own separate accounts. Ninety-five percent of the cemetery's money for these projects is specific donations from plot holders, not from church parishioners.



27TH ANNUAL BABER APPRECIATION DAY
SAT. SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 2:30 TO 6:30 PM

Hot dogs, baked beans, chips, watermelon, & water will be provided.

Bring your own folding chair, a sun hat, and some bug spray.

NATURE AND HISTORY WALKING TOURS 2:30

BAKE SALE PICNIC BEGINNING 4:30

THIRD BRIGADE BAND CONCERT 4:00- 6:00 PM

RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

- (1) Monetary Contributions to purchase the hot dogs, rolls, condiments, baked beans, paper products, water and chips would be appreciated. (2) Volunteers are needed to help set up, clean up, cut the melons, grill dogs, man the baked goods table, and to hand out plates of food. (3) Bakers are needed to make goodies for our baked goods table. If you can help or can contribute, contact Carol 570-617-6704, Carla, or Norm 570-628-3868, or the office at 570-622-8720



Two elderly women were out driving in a large car. Neither one could see over the dashboard. As they cruised along, they approached an intersection. The light was red, but they went right through it. The woman in the passenger seat thought to herself, “I must be losing it. I could have sworn we just went through a red light!” A few minutes later, they approached another intersection. The light was red again, and once again they sailed right through it. This time the passenger was almost certain the light had been red, but she was still worried that she might be seeing things. She decided to pay very close attention. At the next intersection, sure enough, the light was definitely red—and they cruised right through it! The passenger turned to the other woman and said, “Mildred! Did you know we just ran three red lights in a row? You could have killed us!” Mildred looked at her in surprise. “Oh, my gosh!” she exclaimed. “Am I driving?!”

While the joke above is amusing, dealing with a senior who is no longer safe to drive is not. Driving can become a difficult topic to discuss as your loved one ages. Given the life expectancy in the U.S., most of us at some point will have to restrict or give up driving. While most people can drive safely well into old age, it should be noted that National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data shows that among older drivers, those 85 and up had the highest rate of fatal crashes.

While there is no set age when a person is no longer safe behind the wheel, there are warning signs. If you are wondering if your loved one or friend should not drive, look for dings or dents appearing on their vehicle and how they park the car. They may have fender benders or miss traffic signs. Other behaviors to look for include not being able to check for blind spots, hitting the wrong pedals, neighbors commenting on unsafe driving practices, or getting lost on the way to familiar places. An annual wellness checkup or yearly Medicare visit may also help evaluate potential issues that lead to unsafe driving. A mini mental health exam to check for signs of cognitive decline as well as physical warning signs can be noted at these visits.

While some seniors may accept no longer being safe to drive, many will fight giving up their keys. They may feel like they are giving up not only the keys but their independence. The transition may be difficult on family members, and it can be hard to know where to start. To begin this conversation, you may ask how they feel about driving or if driving makes them feel nervous. Talking to them about the possibility of hurting others is also important.

Perhaps the best time to have this conversation is while you are still healthy and able to drive independently. Together you can come up with a plan for how to approach driving as you age and when it may be time to reduce or stop driving. Just like planning your future financial and healthcare needs, there are benefits to planning for when it makes sense to limit or stop driving. Your family will thank you for it!

FREE 2-HOUR PARKING FOR POTTSVILLE SENIORS! 🚗

Are you a Pottsville senior age 62 or older? You may qualify for FREE parking for up to 2 hours!

Here's how to register:

Take your driver's license and license plate number to the Pottsville Parking Authority office, located in City Hall.

Each permit allows 2 vehicles to be registered by license plate.

Once registered, you'll receive a virtual parking permit tied to your license plate. Parking enforcement officers can verify your registration electronically.

PLEASE NOTE:

Free parking is limited to 2 hours. Any vehicle parked longer than 2 hours is subject to a parking ticket.

A great perk for Pottsville seniors—spread the word! 💙



CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6-
8:50 CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9AM SERVICE-CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS
- MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7-OFFICE CLOSED 
- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12-2:30 PM BABER DAY AT
CHARLES BABER CEMETERY
- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13-
8:50 AM CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9 AM SERVICE-LOUNGE
RAIN DATE FOR BABER DAY
- SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19-12 NOON
JACK MANSELL FUNERAL
- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20-200TH KICKOFF
10 AM SERVICE
11 AM- HYMN SING & LUNCHEON
- WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 23- 12 NOON-HEALING SERVICE
- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27-
8:50 AM-CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9 AM- SERVICE WITH HEALING
10:30 AM VESTRY

November

- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2-
8:50 AM-CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9AM SERVICE -ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
4 PM-NECROLOGY SERVICE AT TEC

October

- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4-
 8:50 CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9AM SERVICE-UTO IN GATHERING
PET BLESSING
NECROLOGY SIGN UP BEGINS
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5-
12 NOON HEALING SERVICE
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11-
 8:50 AM CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9 AM SERVICE-UTO IN GATHERING
COFFEE HOUR-TRICK OR TREAT PACKING
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14-12 NOON HEALING SERVICE
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18-
 8:50 CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9AM SERVICE
ADVENT PROJECT BEGINS
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21- 12 NOON HEALING SERVICE
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25-
8:50 AM-CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9 AM- SERVICE
10:30 AM VESTRY
3 PM- ORGAN CONCERT-ALLEN ARTZ
LAST DAY FOR NECROLOGY SIGNUPS
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28-
12 NOON HEALING SERVICE
- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31-CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR

Trinity Episcopal Church

200 South Second Street

Pottsville, PA 17901

Phone: 570.622.8720

Return Service Requested

Deadline

For

Sept/Oct articles deadline is

October 15, 2026

SEPTEMBER

- 1-Alexa Stone
- 2-Dawn Burns
- 8 Braden Burns
- 11-Brianne Stone
- 15-Anthony Pritiskutch
- 25-Bob Burns
- 26-Hazel Colletti
- 27-Jim Foley

OCTOBER

- 1-Jordan Franko
- 3-Justin Franko
- 5-Georgine Curtier, Fr. Tim Albright
- 7-Emma Colletti
- 18-Juliette Ferguson
- 20-Suzanne Franko
- 23-Sienna Darker
- 28-Barbara Tokarz
- 29-John Ross

