



Trinity Topics
THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
POTTSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA
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March-April 2026

I realized I was pruned for Him to make room for me to bloom. (Alli Themer)

Baber Cemetery usually offers a free class about how to prune a tree properly. This class, open to all, takes place in February, unless the ground is too littered with ice and snow and whatnot. These trees are pruned before the buds begin to swell, when the average temperatures creep above freezing and then stay there. In addition to the temperature, the increasing daylight also signals to the trees that growth will soon begin. The pruning is completed in certain varieties of trees to avoid disturbing new growth, but before sap circulates in the trees.

By the time you read this, we will have begun our own pruning in anticipation of the Easter season. It is somewhat fitting that this occurs now, in the darkness of winter, with the suspicion that spring and new growth is just ahead. Before the joy and majesty that Easter brings, we will be on our way with the pruning of sinful practices from our lives: judgments, haughtiness, failures to love. This then gives us opportunities to grow in the faith and the practices associated with the greatest commandments. Surely, the pruning of our faults is never perfect, never completed, yet this pruning gives us the means to understand others and to be more loving, through the grace of God.

The daily practices of Lent—self-examination and repentance by prayer, fasting, and self-denial, reading and meditating on God’s holy Word, and strong confession and amelioration of life—don’t end with the lighting of the Paschal Candle from the new fire during the Easter Vigil. They are recommended to us to continue, to carefully and intentionally prune those difficulties that we cause ourselves. But Lent is a great time to begin new practices, new attitudes, and new patterns of living into the peace and joy of Jesus Christ. And as pruning often requires more than one pruner, consider sharing your practices with one another.

May you know the presence of God with you always, and may the peace of the risen Christ light your journey in the days ahead.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Kurt

THURSDAYS SOUP, SALAD & SERVICE

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

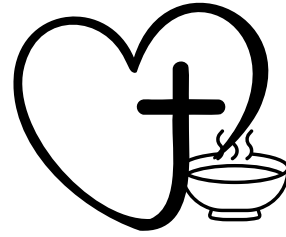
March 5th-Trinity

March 12th-St. John's -Ashland

March 19th-St. James

March 26th- Trinity

There is a signup sheet for March 5 and March 26 in the hallway behind the main altar. Two Soups, Two Salads, Bread/Butter and a service leader will be needed.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sunday, March 29- Palm Sunday 9 am service with blessing of the palms

Thursday, April 2 -Maundy Thursday-7 pm Eucharist with Foot Washing

8 pm- 12 Midnight-Vigil in St. Luke's Chapel

(see sign-up sheets on bulletin boards)

Friday, April 3- Good Friday-12 Noon Service with Stations

Saturday, April 5- Easter Egg Hunt in Undercroft

7 pm Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 5th- Sunrise service 6:20 am at Charles Baber Cemetery

9 am -Festal Easter Eucharist



JINGLE COLLECTION

In November, Father Kurt announced the beginning of the "Jingle Collection" each Sunday. The Church School children will collect whatever pocket or purse change you may have in their cans after the usual Offering. After Easter they will decide what cause these donations will benefit. Enjoy the happy sound of the children collecting your generosity. And don't forget there is Children's Chapel each Sunday at 8:50 am at the Children's Altar. The children will process down the aisle, then head to Church School and participate in the final blessing with either Father Kurt or Father Tim.

COFFEE HOUR



Our second Sunday coffee hour continues. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board behind the high altar. It can be an individual or a family offering a few goodies to share.

BOYER'S KEY TAGS

Shopping at Boyer's Markets – helps support Trinity Church through their community give-back program!

Simply present your key tag at checkout and have it scanned. Twice a year, Boyer's sends Trinity a check based on a percentage of all key tag purchases — at no extra cost to you.

Since joining the program in 2023, Trinity has already earned \$471.78 just from our community shopping local!

Plus, there are even more ways to save:

- Senior Day is Tuesday – seniors receive an extra 5% off their purchase
- Bring your own bags and get 4¢ off per bag

It's an easy way to save money and support Trinity at the same time. Every scan makes a difference!

ANNUAL MEETING RESCHEDULED

MEETING

Our 2025 annual meeting will be held on Sunday, April 26th, since we were unable to meet on January 25th due to a snowstorm! Service will begin at 9 am in the Sanctuary, and following Communion, we will move to the Lounge for a light brunch and the conclusion of the meeting.

HEALING SERVICE



Healing service is held on Wednesday's at 12 noon in St. Luke's Chapel--all are welcome!

SUMMER READING CAMP NEWS

Summer Reading Camp is scheduled July 13-17 from 8:30-12:30 in the undercroft. Since this year is the 250th birthday of the United States, our young readers will be Celebrating America at camp this summer. The reading camp staff are busy planning exciting activities, including a musical program featuring classic American songs through the ages, a trip to the Pottsville Historical Society, visiting experts to present programs about toys, games, and clothing throughout our history, and a visit from the Pottsville children's librarian who will introduce some classic American stories. Breakfast and lunch will be provided, as well as a nutritious snack pack each day for the children to take home.

Camp will kick off with a family game night on May 6 in our parish hall, so the children can meet the teachers and the families can get a better understanding of the activities their child will participate in during camp. A parent workshop will be part of the program so that parents will have the opportunity to make some educational games that they can use to help their child become a better reader.

We are thankful to our grantors and our parishioners for their support. The Benevolent Association of Pottsville has awarded the reading camp a \$1,000 grant, which will help get the program started, and we anticipate that additional funds from other grantors will be awarded shortly.

As time goes on, we will make you aware of opportunities for volunteers and for financial support. As the number of children who come to camp increases, we are always grateful to have an additional teacher. This person would plan and implement daily activities for their class as well as collaborate with the staff on camp programs. Teachers need to apply for child abuse and criminal history clearances and take the Safeguarding God's Children training.

If you are interested or know of anyone who would like to be a camp teacher, please call or text Barb Tokarz at 570-691-5113.





Easter Flowers



Donations for Easter flowers may be made by completing
this form and returning it with your contribution by
Sunday, March 22, 2026.

Flower donations received after March 22 will go into the general flower fund.

In Memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

Given by: _____

Envelope # _____

Please return requests by Sunday, March 22, 2026

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

200TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

10:00 AM OPENING EUCHARIST — SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

And

HYMN SING 🎵

As we prepare for a year of celebration and rejoicing, we will hold a Hymn Sing after the opening Eucharist. Please check the hymns which you would like to include and offer your own choices in the “Other” category. The twenty hymns receiving the most votes will be sung that day, and we will endeavor to include many others during the celebration year.

HYMNAL 1982

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ☐ | 7 — Christ whose glory fills the skies |
| ☐ | 8 — Morning has broken |
| ☐ | 343 — Shepherd of souls |
| ☐ | 362 — Holy, holy, holy! |
| ☐ | 376 — Joyful, joyful we adore thee |
| ☐ | 379 — God is Love |
| ☐ | 390 — Praise to the Lord |
| ☐ | 397 — Now thank we all our God |
| ☐ | 410 — Praise, my soul, the King of heaven |
| ☐ | 423 — Immortal, invisible, God only wise |
| ☐ | 427 — When morning gilds the skies |
| ☐ | 438 — Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord |
| ☐ | 455 — O Love of God |
| ☐ | 460 — Alleluia! Sing to Jesus |
| ☐ | 474 — When I survey the wondrous cross |
| ☐ | 490 — I want to walk as a child of the Light |
| ☐ | 493 — O for a thousand tongues to sing |
| ☐ | 494 — Crown him with many crowns |

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ | 525 — The Church's one foundation |
| ☐ | 544 — Jesus shall reign |
| ☐ | 620 — Jerusalem, my happy home |
| ☐ | 645 — The King of Love my shepherd is |
| ☐ | 671 — Amazing grace! |
| ☐ | 680 — O God our help in ages past |

LEVAS

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ☐ | 60 — How great thou art |
| ☐ | 111 — Come thou fount of every blessing |
| ☐ | 184 — Blessed Assurance |
| ☐ | 189 — Great is his faithfulness |
| ☐ | The Lord's Prayer — Franklin M. Osenbach |

☐	Other _____
☐	_____
☐	_____

Please return your selections to TEC- 200 S. 2nd St. Pottsville, Pa 17901 by May 10, 2026 or
email: episcopalch200@gmail.com



Charles Baber Cemetery Preservation Trust

Eagerly Waiting for Spring

C. Field-March/April 2026

Nature really loves to mix things up. In 2024, we endured a winter of gusting winds and snowstorms that caused over \$20,000 in damage from fallen trees and branches at the cemetery. In 2025, we endured a winter of ice and sleet with the businesses running out of rock salt, but thankfully, not a lot of tree damage. And now in 2026, we are enduring many days of temperatures and windchill factors registering minus 19 degrees. Adding insult to injury, we have had at least 24 inches of snow accumulation with no place to shovel the snow, and with many people suffering from frozen pipes. We, here at the Charles Baber Cemetery, had frozen pipes in the chapel and an oil burner that kept shutting off. The oil burner is up and running again, but the water had to be shut off to the bathroom and the sink in the basement because one of the pipes has a crack in it. Unfortunately, nothing can be done until the weather warms up, the pipes are thawed out, and the cracked pipe is replaced. As for the oil burner, it will not survive another winter and will definitely have to be replaced sometime this year.

While nature has tested our patience and endurance with its winter months of freezing temperatures and snow, she is also eager to bring us warm sunny days filled with beautiful flowering trees, plants, and shrubs. While Lent comes early this year, by the time Easter arrives and the 6:20 AM Easter morning service is held in front of the chapel, the perky yellow and white daffodils around the chapel greet the early morning visitors. Another cheerful and graceful greeter is the weeping cherry tree to the east of the main entrance. The early morning sunrise coming from the east gently kisses the long pink flower-laden draping branches of the tree, and as the branches sway in the wind, it is like a little puppy that is frantically wagging its tail, so eager to greet you and to be acknowledged.

Easter is a little too early this year to celebrate many of our blooming flowers; however, within a few weeks thereafter, the pinks, fuchsia, whites, yellows, reds, and violet colors begin appearing. These colors are eye poppers, bringing pleasure, happiness, and delight to the visitor. No matter where you look, there is something to see. Very noticeable are the fuchsia flowers on the red buds inside the 16th Street entrance, to the east of the main entrance, and a few down the hill to the west of the entrance. Five more will be planted for Arbor Day this year by the pond. Also, we have the pink and the white flowering dogwoods and the kousa dogwoods dispersed throughout the property. Equally prominent is the sunset red maple going down the hill from the chapel and to the north of the chapel. They have red twigs that sprout a dark burgundy bunched floral cluster that gives way to red and yellow catkins before changing their leaf coloring to green. 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 and two weeping cherries. New to our property is the Japanese ivory silk white lilac. We have two older ones by the barn, and new babies are at the top of the inside stone wall. They did not survive their first year and will be replaced on Arbor Day. There are a few callery pears with their white blossoms by the barn; the one coffee tree with tiny white flowers near the main entrance; one sprawling magnolia with huge white and pink flowers; one horse chestnut with its long cone shaped tiny yellow flower clusters; one mature tall tulip tree with green banded yellow flowers that look like tulips, and one baby tuliptree who isn't old enough to bear flowers yet. And later in the Spring, the Siberian elm by the Comloquoy mausoleum develops clusters of tiny pale cream\yellow disk-shaped flowers, with the nearby slippery elm having light green disks. Finally, we have the many flowers growing in the Scatter Garden, and the tulips and azaleas by the chapel. Come and enjoy spring at the cemetery when it finally gets here.



Upcoming Cemetery Events April/May

6:40 AM Easter Sunday Sunrise Service, April 5th

In or outside (weather dependent) at the Chapel of the Resurrection with The Rev. Dr. Kurt K. Kovalovich.

Arbor Day Tree Replacement Program

We will be planting 10 new trees this year, with 8 already sponsored and paid for last year. The trees are 6 red buds, 3 Japanese larch to replace three that were removed in January at a cost of \$2,400, and one weeping willow. Also, we will be replacing 4 Japanese while lilac that were planted in 2024 but did not survive. The remaining two trees available for sponsorship will be given out on the first two checks received for the sponsorship. Any sponsorship money coming in after that, the sponsor will be contacted to see if they wish to be placed on the 2027 tree planting list. Our Arbor Day tree replacement program covers four years.

Our Arbor Day tree celebration and blessing is Friday, April 24th at 2 PM, with the Rev. Dr. Kurt Kovalovich blessing the trees.

Memorial Day Flag Replacement

For the past two years, Mark Weis, a dog walker, and 8 -11 of his Facebook friends volunteered to replace all 580 Veterans' flags. Mark and his wife, Angie, have agreed to help us again this year; however, they said there are fewer volunteers available to help. The flags are usually replaced the week before the Memorial Day weekend and usually on a Saturday morning. If you think you can help, please call the office at 570-622-8720. As we get closer to Memorial Day, we will know the exact date they can help. However, if you are able to volunteer early and wish to do one section ahead of time, that too would be appreciated. We do not get the flags from the Veteran's bureau until after May 11th.

Memorial Day Sunset Service

A new event that started last year and continued this year is a Memorial Day sunset service with the Rev. Kurt Kovalovich opening the service with prayers, Tom Shay as guest speaker, and Vincent Prestilio playing taps at sunset. **The service will be on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25th at 8:15 PM.**

Pending Grants and Programs

The Baber Preservation Trust has filed the required application with the state of Pennsylvania and is waiting to hear if the cemetery will be accepted into the Educational Tax Credit program. If we are accepted, the program will cover the structures on the property, including the Egyptian Revival Gateway entrance and the long Pottsville conglomerate stone wall, in addition to the Gothic chapel. More information will be shared if we are accepted.

The Baber Preservation Trust has also filed with the **DCNR Forestry Division** for acceptance into its **community tree replacement program**. DCNR has identified 49 trees that have to be removed for safety reasons. The trees would be replaced through a 4-5-year Arbor Day program. We have filed the application, but won't know for several months if we will be accepted; and if accepted, if it will only be a partial payment. More information will be shared if we are accepted.

Happy Spring! Well, happy almost spring. As I write this, we have finally come out of the deep freeze and snow of this winter, and it feels like spring. Spring will officially begin Friday, March 20th, this year, no matter what Punxsutawney Phil says. Who can believe a groundhog, anyway?

The feel of spring always brings thoughts of Easter for me. The smell of Easter flowers, green grass, trees budding, weekly Lenten church services, and, of course, chocolate. The churches and fire companies are already making and selling their homemade Easter candy, and Hershey has released their Reese's chocolate peanut butter egg. I just saw a commercial about an experiment to see which is better, Reese's or Cadbury egg, but the girl picks both. That would not be a hard choice for me, as the Reese's egg is my all-time favorite. Which would you pick?

Last year was the first time my son, Stone, was not at home for Easter. He was spending the holiday in Florida, where he now lives and works. Since Stone was not traveling back to PA, he was invited to spend the holiday with his girlfriend and her family. Before the holiday, his girlfriend, Hannah, reached out to me for the recipe for pineapple filling, which is a dish we always serve at Easter, as well as any other favorites she could include in the menu. The first time Stone brought Hannah home to meet us, she asked about some of our family traditions, and she remembered the pineapple filling. Please let me know if you'd like the recipe.

We are now planning Stone and Hannah's wedding, and once again we are talking about family traditions. I began to ask around about some Easter traditions people had, whether from when they were young or after they had their own families. I found that most of us have very similar traditions or memories, but some were remembered more fondly than others.

Easter egg hunts were a top tradition. Most remember going out in the yard to hunt eggs; some had coins inside, some had candy, and some collected eggs, and the one with the most eggs got the bigger chocolate bunny. Mootz's candy was remembered for all the wonderful candy they made right here in Pottsville. Some felt looking forward to their basket of candy on Easter morning was a favorite memory. Going downtown to buy a new fancy dress, shoes, and bonnet was a favorite tradition. Some looked forward to watching the sunrise at an early church service. Another said their family went to the beach each Easter to attend sunrise service on the beach. Enjoying a big Sunday dinner of ham, stuffing, and all the trimmings was another tradition. Coloring hard-boiled eggs was another fond tradition, one that my family still enjoys even though my kids are grown. Someone even mentioned getting two live bunnies for Easter. This was a gift that multiplied quickly! One remembered Shrove Tuesday dinners at the church.

I really enjoyed speaking to people and listening to their memories. I hope you take a minute this Easter to smell the flowers, to reflect back on past Easters, and enjoy some sweet memories of Easters gone by.



MARCH

- SUNDAY, MAR. 1ST —8:50 AM — CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9 AM SERVICE — LENT II
- WEDNESDAY, MAR 4TH — 12 NOON HEALING SERVICE
- THURSDAY, MAR 5TH — SOUP AND LENTEN SERVICE
5:30 PM AT TRINITY
- SATURDAY, MAR 7TH- TURN CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR
- SUNDAY, MAR 8TH- 8:50 AM — CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9 AM SERVICE — LENT III
COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING
- WEDNESDAY, MAR 11TH-12 NOON -HEALING SERVICE
- THURSDAY, MAR 12TH- 5:30 PM, SOUP, SALAD & SERVICE
ST. JOHN'S-ASHLAND
- SUNDAY, MAR 15TH- 8:50 AM — CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9 AM SERVICE — LENT IV
- MONDAY-MARCH 16TH-SATURDAY, MARCH 22ND--
OFFICE CLOSED
- WEDNESDAY, MAR 18TH-12 NOON HEALING SERVICE
- THURSDAY, MAR 19- 5:30 PM-SOUP, SALAD & SERVICE
ST. JAMES
- SUNDAY, MAR 22ND- 8:50 AM — CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9 AM SERVICE — LENT IV
10:30 AM-VESTRY
EASTER FLOWER ORDERS DUE
- WEDNESDAY, MAR 25-12 NOON HEALING SERVICE
- THURSDAY, MAR 26TH- 5:30 PM SOUP, SALAD & SERVICE
- SUNDAY, MAR, 29TH-PALM SUNDAY
8:50 AM — CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9 AM SERVICE — PALM SUNDAY

APRIL

- WEDNESDAY, APR 1ST- 12 NOON HEALING SERVICE
- THURSDAY, APR 2ND- 7 PM MAUNDY THURSDAY
8 PM-MIDNIGHT-VIGIL IN ST. LUKES CHAPEL
- FRIDAY, APR. 3RD--12 NOON GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS
- SATURDAY, APR. 4TH--7 PM EASTER VIGIL
- SUNDAY, APR. 5TH--6:20 AM EASTER VIGIL AT CBC
9 AM FESTAL EUCHARIST-EASTER
- WEDNESDAY, APR 8TH-NO HEALING SERVICE
- SUNDAY, APR. 12TH- 8:50 AM-CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9 AM SERVICE, EASTER II-BAPTISM
COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING
- WEDNESDAY, APR.15TH-12 NOON HEALING SERVICE
- THURSDAY, APR. 16TH- TOPICS ARTICLES DUE
- SUNDAY, APR. 19TH —8:50 AM — CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9 AM SERVICE — EASTER III
- WEDNESDAY, APR. 22ND —12 NOON HEALING SERVICE
- SUNDAY, APR. 26TH- 8:50 AM-CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9 AM SERVICE, ANNUAL MEETING
WITH LIGHT BRUNCH
- WEDNESDAY, APR. 29TH- 12 NOON HEALING

MAY

- SUNDAY, MAY 3- 8:50 AM-CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9 AM SERVICE, EASTER V
- WEDNESDAY, MAY 7TH-12 NOON HEALING SERVICE

Trinity Episcopal Church

200 South Second Street
Pottsville, PA 17901
Phone: 570.622.8720
Return Service Requested

Deadline
For
May/June articles deadline
is April 16, 2026

March

3-Alexander Costa
7-Kaitlin Polcrack, Fr. Kurt
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

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 Curetis, Gabriel Fitzpatrick
12-Cora Gamelin-Osenbach
13-Lee Felsburg
14-Darlen Bowler, Brenda Lindenmuth
15-Braeden Jone
16-Robert Emery
18-Giovanni Lantonio, Luca Lantonio
19-Mark Bacon
27-Elena Jolee Holden, Maegan Frederick
28-Susan Pozza
29-Holly Portland MacLea