



Trinity Topics
THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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From the mind of the priest.....November/December 2025

All Thy works with joy surround Thee Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise
Field and forest, vale and mountain Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea
chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee-Henry Van Dyke

What does it mean to rejoice? Is it simply a feeling of overflowing praise? Is it a measure of happiness put to song or dance, or a poem? Is it a calm sigh or a reverberating shout? It seems the answer to those questions is the same answer: yes.

Yes, we transition too quickly from the warm days of summer, with brilliant sunlight and humidity, into the cooler and darker days of autumn. Meanwhile, the appearance of the noctilucent clouds with their over-riding light and undercurrent of darkness can be observed far too soon in the fading twilight. Different constellations pepper the sky in an ever-changing show of the movement of Earth and the movement of distant heavenly bodies and lights. In the midst of all this, it may seem that the world will slow, that peace may break out, and calmness and quietude become the wish of our autumnal and winter church gatherings.

But the too-soon ending of Pentecost—Ordinary—Sundays will be followed not by quiet and stillness, but by anticipation and joy. November brings the Commemoration of Faithfully Departed, a service of light and tears, for many. Thanksgiving brings gatherings of friends and family members and the hustle of serving those less well off as the hands of Christ. Advent returns, with colored candles, announcements, and visitations, and cries of “How can this be?”. And Christmas will advance like a slow tiptoe, to be followed by a rejoicing, joined with melody of shouts and Glorias for some and a deeper darkness for others. The secular New Year will thrust us inexorably back to the depths of winter, as we await the next season, tentatively, and with breathless anticipation anyway.

Through all this, take some time to take stock of your faith with both rejoicing and contemplating. And may the upcoming seasons be ones of fellowship and transformation.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Kurt

NECROLOGY SERVICE

The reading of the Necrology list and Holy Eucharist will be held on Saturday evening, November 1st at 6pm in the Sanctuary at TEC.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY-NOVEMBER 2ND

Sunday, November 2nd, will be our annual Stewardship Sunday. You will have received a letter and pledge card in the mail. Please bring it with you on November 2nd to be blessed by Fr. Tim. These pledges help Vestry continue to plan a budget for 2026. Thank you!

VETERAN'S SUNDAY



On Sunday, November 9th, we will have the annual recognition of our veterans. After the service, the Bowler, Burns and Curtis families will offer a brunch to share. Please join us in this annual tradition honoring our veterans.

SOUP SALE



Calling all cooks! A Soup Sale will be held in the lounge on November 9th. We will be opening up the soup sale to the public. Signs will be posted for the sale. Please consider a batch of your favorite fall soups to help out!

HEALING SERVICE



Join us each Wednesday at 12 noon in St. Luke's Chapel--all are welcome!

COFFEE HOUR



Coffee hour returned on October 12th following worship service. Most coffee hours are held on the 2nd Sunday of each month. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board behind the high altar. It can be an individual or family offering a few goodies to share.



Do you shop at Boyer's Food Markets? TEC has earned \$161.85 this year from their key tag program. Simply provide your key tag at checkout to be scanned. The key tags can be carried on your key ring. We have tags available for anyone needing one. If you are interested, please see Carla Kauffman.

ALTAR GUILD-VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Our Altar Guild needs volunteers. Setting up for Eucharistic service and then cleaning up after Sunday service. It's a very minimal time commitment (less than 30 mins for both setup and clean-up). If you can volunteer your time, please see Karen Portland or Cora Gamelin-Osenbach, and they can place you in the monthly rotation.

COUNTERS NEEDED



We currently have only 4 counters, who are also extremely involved with every committee in the church. If you can sit, count money and open envelopes, we can use you!! Please see Lea Bortner, or Bob Bednar for more details and to be placed on monthly schedule.

SAFE TRICK OR TREAT



Pottsville Business Association's Safe Trick or Treat will be held on Tuesday, October 28, 2025. At press time, we have 700 treat bags ready to go. Thank you to the members of the congregation who provided over 700 pieces of candy and snacks or monetary gifts. Thank you to those who packed and participated on the night of the event: Evie Barnwell, Paul Barnwell, Peter Bortner, Dawn Burns, Cathy and Maiya Clouser, Carol Field, Father Kurt, Kitty Murray, Cora Gamelin-Osenbach, Al and Karen Portland, Heather Reedy, Gerry Schwartz, Kristy Sarge, Barb Tokarz and Deb Zyk.

ADVENT PROJECT 2025 OCTOBER 19-DECEMBER 7

Once again we begin this highly successful project which has positively impacted many of our senior citizens in nursing homes. Last year 100 bags were delivered to the Ridgeview Nursing Home in Shenandoah and the gratitude was extraordinary! This year's campaign began on **October 19 and will continue through December 7**. There are large wrapped boxes at each entrance for your donations. Please see the following list of what is acceptable. Travel size items are best and nursing homes have asked for NO body washes or soaps, and NO partially used items. Let's see if we can equal the 100 bags or more for 2025. Thank you again and God bless you all for making this season of giving even more special.

Items needed:

Travel size toothpaste
Hand sanitizer
Deodorant
Shaving cream
Hand cream
Mouthwash
Baby powder
Chapstick
Nail files, combs
Treats:

Cracker packs, Rice Krispy Treats

NO PARTIALLY USED ITEMS
NO BODY WASH, NO SOAP



DECORATORS NEEDED

On Sunday, December 21, volunteers are needed after the service to help decorate the church for the Christmas Eve service. Help will be needed to place the creche, hang sconces, fluff bows, and change altar hangings, etc., after the 9 am service. Many hands make light work. Thank you in advance to anyone who may be able to help.

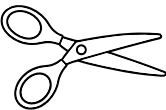


VESTRY MEMBER OPENING

The Vestry meets on the fourth Sunday of each month to discuss pertinent issues in the church and make decisions that impact the parish. We have one open seat for the upcoming year. The Vacant spot is a 3-year term. Please contact any Vestry member for more information and with any questions you may have.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND VESTRY BIOS

All Committee reports and biographies for those standing for Vestry must be in the office no later than Wednesday, January 7, 2026, so the Annual Report can be prepared for the meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2026. If you need a form, please contact Kristy at 570-622-8720, or via email: episcopalch200@gmail.com



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Donations for Christmas Flowers may be made by completing this form and returning it with your contribution by Sunday, December 7, 2025.



Flower donations received after Dec. 8 will go into the general flower fund.



Late forms may not make the Christmas Flower List!!

Given by: _____

In memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

COOKIE EXCHANGE



The annual cookie exchange will take place on Sunday, December 7th, after the 9am service. Please share your baking prowess with cookies, bars, spiced nuts, and candies to share. If everyone brings 1 or 2 dozen, there will be plenty to share, bag some for home, and deliver to our shut-ins. Please no cakes or pies which can not be bagged. Thank you! Treats for all!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Once again, we are extremely grateful to Allen Artz for his generosity in offering another Christmas concert and carol sing to benefit Trinity. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, December 14 at 2pm with a weather date of December 21. These concerts have proven very popular. See flyer below for more info.

Trinity Episcopal Church

Centre Street at Howard Avenue

Pottsville, PA

presents

F. Allen Artz, III

organist

in concert on

Sunday, December 14, 2025

2:00 PM

+++

Hark, the Glad Sound!

Carols for Organ and for Audience Singing

+++

Tickets are \$10.00

(purchased at the door)

All proceeds from this Concert/Carol-Sing benefit

Trinity Episcopal Church

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

1827-2027

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

It is now the time to commence planning for the momentous occasion of Trinity's 200th anniversary year in 2027. The opening celebration will be on Sunday, September 20, 2026 with a 10 O'clock Eucharist followed by a Hymn Sing and a catered picnic lunch.

Please mark your calendars!

Your esteemed Vestry members are chairing or co-chairing five different committees. We welcome your participation to plan events in the year-long celebration. The following are the five categories:

Worship/Liturgy/Music

Cora Gamelin-Osenbach: 570-449-7553 --- singfree@mac.com

Father Kurt: 570-640-1738 --- heydrk3@gmail.com

Community events in conjunction with the church

June Bednar: 570-449-1679 --- jcbednar@hotmail.com

Samantha Simatos: ssimatos@gmail.com

Communications/liaisons

Father Kurt-see above

History/Reporting

Lea Bortner: 570-516-4726 --- ljebortner@comcast.net

Norm Kauffman: 570-640-8696 – normkauffman@verizon.net

Fundraising/Merchandise

Dawn Burns: 570-640-8696 --- dgre1burns@verizon.net

Lea Bortner-see above

There is much to be planned and coordinated, so please seek out Vestry members to volunteer for one of these committees (or more if you are so inclined).

Let us rejoice in the history of our parish, its contribution to the community, and its ever-present welcoming love to all who enter the red doors.

1827-2027



Charles Baber Cemetery Preservation Trust

Help Needed on Fundraiser

We are looking for volunteers to help run a concession stand in 2 or 3-hour increments on Friday, December 5, from 3:30 pm until 8:00 pm, and Saturday, December 6, from 8:30 am until 5:30 pm at the Auction Time Bid Board in Orwigsburg. Last year, when the Fergusons (Lisa & Steve) did this, they earned more than \$1,700, which benefited the chapel renovations. We only need 2 people per time slot, but we can run it with only one person per time slot. Lisa Ferguson will be there the entire time, so there is no need to worry that you won't know what to do. Volunteers will be dishing prepared foods, running the register, and collecting money for the lottery scratch-off raffle. The sign-up sheets are at each entrance.

We are also doing a lottery basket raffle. If you would like to donate scratch-off lottery tickets, it would be greatly appreciated. Monetary donations are also accepted to purchase raffle tickets. Either can be placed in baskets at each entrance, or given to Carol or Lisa. If you have any questions, you can call Lisa at 570-292-0507, Carol at 570-617-6704, or the office at 570-622-8720.

Chapel Repairs

There are 3 major projects that must be done immediately on the chapel before we can think about doing the ceiling and the walls: (1) pressure washing and pointing the stone; (2) replacing the leaning retainer wall at the north columbarium; (3) and replacing the heating system with a mini split heating and air conditioning system. We have just had the 1978 oil burner serviced at a total cost \$1,340, which was funded by one board member and one friend of the cemetery. We will be meeting with Bill Jones in the last two weeks of October to see if we can receive financial assistance for any of the chapel repairs from a charitable trust. Also, there will be a meeting with a donor sometime within the third week of October, but after the Topic insert is due. We hope that the donor will contribute money towards the pressure washing and stone pointing on the chapel.

Gratitude

At this time of year, with Thanksgiving fast approaching, the cemetery has so much to be grateful for. It could not continue to operate or be open to the public if not for the contributions from all the donors who responded to the ground maintenance solicitation letter. The cemetery thanks the board members for their gifts of time and money, our employee, Bill Smith, for all his hard work, to Kristy for her bookkeeping and helpfulness, to Kurt Kovalovich for his free services at the cemetery events and the urn plantings, to our two new volunteers, Mark Derenzo and Jerry Bowman for their weekly donation of several hours of free labor, to all the people who volunteer and help at all the events, and to Joe Orlowski, Tom Shay, Frank Snyder, Jay Zane, and Will Thomas who do the walking tours, the tree plantings for Arbor Day, and the Memorial and Veteran's Day services. Thank you to all who help.

Best wishes for a bountiful and happy Thanksgiving!



Charles Baber Cemetery Preservation Trust

The Simple Things in Life

“There’s no better way to appreciate life’s simple things than a quiet walk through the cemetery this time of year.” The yellows and oranges on the sugar maples, the yellows and orangish red of the Norway maples, and the brilliant reds of the sunset red maples are gone since they are some of the earliest to change color and drop their leaves. The tear-drop-shaped European hornbeam, with its buttery yellow coloring running down the tree, now stands barren. The London planetree has dropped its pale yellow leaves and is now sporting its multicolored trunk and limbs. While many of the trees have been quite showy in October, there are still many earth tone colors of rust, orange, honey, and cinnamon found on the later leaf-dropping trees in November. Our slippery elm on the bank, the Siberian elm by the Comloquoy mausoleum, and the hybrid elm around the pond hold their honey-colored leaves through November. And our bald cypress around the pond and the line of dawn redwood up from the soccer field are accenting the cemetery with their rust-colored fern-like leaves. And then we have the marcescence phenomenon on trees like the copper beech by the chapel, the white oaks also by the chapel, the pin oaks by 16th Street, the swamp white oaks by the pond, and the red oaks along the dirt hillside trail. The phenomenon allows these types of trees to hold onto their leaves through the winter, and some even into the spring when the new growth pushes them from the branches.

By December, the air is cold, and the sunshine hours are very short, curbing the time spent by the joggers and dog walkers. It is at this time of year that the trees succumb to their need for a long winter’s sleep. Even now, as they stand bare and stark in the landscape, they continue to make a statement as to their existence and their presence at the cemetery. One of the most charming trees, the dwarf Japanese maple, continues to entertain the walkers. Their curving branches are so graceful, with many twists and turns that create designs and shapes to challenge the imagination. With a light dusting of snow, they take on yet another appearance of gnarly gnomes or dancing and twisting fairies with swirling white capes. Other barren trees are silently showing their soul or inner beings with their trunks and shapes revealed for all to see. Some shapes, like the ginkgo, are askew, making the tree look wild and disorganized. Some shapes, like the little leaf linden, are bulky and spread out at the top and look like an umbrella with the ribs showing. Some trees, like the oaks, are thick and massive in their shape and look like sumo wrestlers. Some trees like the European hornbeam are tear dropped shaped; others are “A” framed or pyramidal or conical, like the maples; others like the hybrid elm raise their branches skyward as if in praise to the Lord; and others like the London planetree have bleached whitish branches and striped trunks of green, gray, and tan that glisten in the sun when they are wet. We have two weeping trees, the willow and the cherry, with long dangling branches. We have dense, rounded or oval shapes like the locust, the walnut, the sycamore, the sassafras, and the beech. Some trees, like the sweetgum, are pyramidal as a baby but rounded or oval as an adult.

Take the time to walk the cemetery and let your imagination run wild as you look at the shapes on the many different tree species, and as you enjoy the simple things in life provided by God and nature.

Best Wishes for a restful and blessed Christmas!

NEWS FROM MARION PRICE TRUST FUND

Medicare Open Enrollment time is happening now! The opportunity to re-evaluate and change your current Medicare plan for next year will end on December 7, 2025. It is important to take time to look at your current plan to see if it is best for you. A change in your health or medication, or an increase in premiums, may mean your current plan is no longer meeting your needs. Medicare also makes changes yearly that can affect your plan. PA MEDI staff and volunteers operate locally through the office of Diakon Community Services, 2020 W. Norwegian St., Pottsville, with funding from the Schuylkill County Office of Senior Services. Appointments are needed and fill up fast. Call 570-624-3026 for more information or to set up an appointment.

Aging Allies is a new group that formed this year to help sort out your Medicare options. Their address is 330 Market Street, Suite 2, Pottsville. They may be contacted Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Please call their office at 570-591-1919 with questions about cost and to schedule appointments.



SAVE THE DATE



The annual MPTF Christmas Party will be held Thursday December 18, 2025 at Holy Apostle Church, 307 E. Hancock Street St Clair, with a Eucharist Service beginning at 12 noon. The service will be followed by lunch, Christmas Carol singing, games, and fellowship. We will be playing the Give and Take game again. If you would like to participate, please bring a wrapped gift and join the fun! If you have any questions concerning the game please call me or Bonnie Baker. Please RSVP to me at (570) 621-3220 by December 14, 2025 if you plan to attend.



THANKSGIVING DINNER



A Thanksgiving meal and all the trimmings, including pumpkin pie will be available for pick up or delivery at Holy Apostles Episcopal church on Thanksgiving Day. If you would like a meal(s) delivered please call me in the office (570) 621-3220 and I will add you to their list. There is no charge for this delicious meal and it can be delivered right to your door for your enjoyment on Thanksgiving Day. It is surely a blessing to be able to provide this service to so many people in the area and we are thankful for those who volunteer to make it happen.



OLDER ADULT MEAL PROGRAM

The older adult meal program at Geisinger St. Lukes Hospital in Orwigsburg offers adults age 65 and older a daily weekday dinner meal. Meals are prepared fresh daily and provide diners with healthy food choices at the special price of \$3.99 per meal. Each meal includes an entrée, salad, side, vegetable, dessert, and a 12 oz drink. Hours of service are weekdays 4 – 6 PM

I wish you all a Blessed Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Health & Happy New Year.

CALENDAR

November

- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1-
6 PM- NECROLOGY READING/HE IN SANCTUARY
TURN CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2-
8:50 AM-CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9 AM-SERVICE-STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
- WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4-
12 PM- HEALING SERVICE-CHAPEL
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9-
8:50AM-CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9 AM-SERVICE-VETERAN'S SUNDAY
10AM-COFFEE HOUR
- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11-
OFFICE CLOSED-VETERAN'S DAY
- WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12-NO HEALING SERVICE
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16-
8:50AM-CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9 AM-SERVICE
- WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19-
12PM- HEALING SERVICE
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23-
8:50AM-CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9 AM-SERVICE-CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY
10:15 AM-VESTRY MEETING-LOUNGE
- WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26-NO HEALING SERVICE
OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON
- THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27-FRIDAY-NOVEMBER 28-
OFFICE CLOSED
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30-
8:50 AM-CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9 AM-SERVICE-ADVENT 1

December

- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3-
12 NOON-HEALING SERVICE
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7-
8:50AM-CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9 AM-SERVICE ADVENT II
COOKIE EXCHANGE
ADVENT PROJECT DEADLINE
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9 -
ADVENT PROJECT SORTING
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10-
12 PM- HEALING SERVICE-CHAPEL
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14-
8:50AM-CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9 AM-SERVICE-VETERAN'S SUNDAY
2 PM-ORGAN CONCERT
- MONDAY/TUESDAY DECEMBER 15 OR 16-
TENTATIVE ADVENT PROJECT PACKING
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17
12 NOON- HEALING SERVICE
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21-
8:50AM-CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
9 AM-SERVICE-ADVENT VI
2 PM-WEATHER DATE FOR CONCERT
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24-
OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON
6 PM-CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
- THURSDAY-DECEMBER 25
9 AM SERVICE-ST. LUKE'S CHAPEL
OFFICE CLOSED-MERRY CHRISTMAS
- SUNDAY-DECEMBER 28-
9 AM -SERVICE CHRISTMAS I
10:15 AM-VESTRY MEETING IN LOUNGE
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31-NO HEALING SERVICE

Trinity Episcopal Church

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

Deadline
For
Jan/Feb "Topics" Monday,
December 15, 2025



November

1-Madison Scott
5-William Bowler
7-Brad Rpss
9-Quinn Evans
10-Joseph Simintus, Nolan Weiner
14-Cole Dencher
17-Charles Guensch
18-Norm Kauffman, Andrea Allar
22-Janet Grabowski
25-Lorie Kauffman
27-Nancy Depsky, Lance Reedy
30-Jonathan Barreiro

December

3-Ryan Wehr
6-George Stone IV
9-Carol Stone Field
10-Olivia Kauffman
14-Kristy Sarge
18-Gretchen Frederick
22-Seraphina Brennan
23-Carol A Seitzinger
28-Eric Stone, Ashley Hopkins, Dallas Petrosky
29-Lauren Polcrack