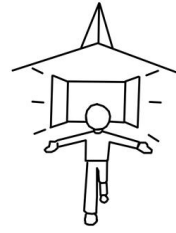
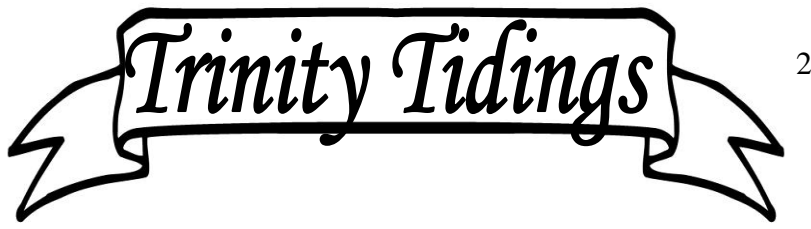


*The Episcopal Church serving
Hancock County, Ohio...and beyond*

Trinity Episcopal Church
128 West Hardin Street
Findlay, Ohio 45840



2024



OUTREACH

Our next visit to serve dinner at the City Mission will be Saturday, May 4th from 4-6:30 p.m. Please consider joining us!

Many thanks for your support of our on-going collection of non-perishable food and taxable toiletries (toilet paper, diapers, sanitary items, cleaning and sanitizing products, shampoo, and soap) for area charities. Baskets are in the parish hall. If you would like to be involved with Outreach or have questions, please contact Annie at 870-307-9058 or stricklina@gmail.com.



SIGN UP FOR KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Money is donated to Trinity for use to support the community. The Kroger Family of Companies is committed to community engagement, positive social impact and charitable giving at the national and local levels. Kroger Community Rewards program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Shopper's Card. Here's how it works: Create a digital account. A digital account is needed to participate. If you already have a digital account, simply link your Shopper's Card to your account so that all transactions apply toward the organization you choose. Sign into your digital account, select the organization you wish to support, enter the name of the organization, select the organization and click 'save'. (Go to Kroger Community Rewards.com and follow the instructions.)

Trinity earned \$105.18 in the last quarter from a total of 27 households.

LUNCH BUNCH



Last month, a good sized group traveled to Bluffton to enjoy great food and friendship at Greenhorn. In April, we'll be staying closer to home when we gather at Hunan Gardens here in Findlay.

WHERE: Hunan Gardens, 1949 Tiffin Avenue

WHEN: Friday, April 12th at 11:30 a.m.

Please let Ginny Lee or Nancy O'Sullivan know if you can join us no later than Wednesday, April 10th.

Ginny Lee Pilstl

Nancy O'Sullivan



THE RECTOR WRITES

Like many, I am approaching the total solar eclipse on Monday with both excitement and some concern. On the one hand, I am excited to have the opportunity to experience something so uncommon and interesting. On the other hand, I hope that our infrastructure holds up to what many are predicting to be a wave of spectators descending on our small communities. We shall see if the predictions of traffic and empty store shelves and gasoline shortages and mobile phone service interruptions turn out to be completely valid concerns or “much ado about nothing.” I suspect the reality will be somewhere between these two extremes, but time will tell.

I was a bit baffled by something I heard on the radio earlier this week. Six inmates are appealing to the New York State prison system, claiming that they have a right to view the eclipse based on religious freedom, claiming that the phenomenon is religiously significant. It’s a peculiar argument, made by a Baptist, a Seventh-Day Adventist, a Muslim, an atheist, and two practitioners of Santería. I am not qualified to weigh in on whether Islam or an Afro-Caribbean folk religion can be used to justify the argument. It seems, at least initially, a bit of a stretch for a Christian to claim this, though, and I have an even harder time figuring out how an atheist can claim a religious right to something, based purely on the definitions of *religion* and *atheism*.


That said, I don’t begrudge the plaintiffs their desire to experience something historically and scientifically significant, and I suspect that the religious argument is being made simply because it’s their only legal recourse. Religious freedom is a constitutional right and (presumably) the ability to participate in something like this on purely secular grounds would not be one. I don’t know enough about the prison system’s concerns regarding security &c. to weigh in on whether allowing this would be the right thing or not. The whole thing raises some interesting ideas, though, and for a Christian, Jesus’ own concern with visiting and comforting those in prison makes it a moral question - one, as I said, I am not equipped to answer.

While I would contend that - for a Christian, anyway - viewing the eclipse would not be a right in the same way that gathering for worship or reading the bible or expressing religious opinions would be, this is not to say that there is no religious or spiritual content here. While both Christians and our Jewish forbears have always appropriately discouraged practices which might verge on the worship of nature, we have always recognized and celebrated the fact that God’s wisdom and power may be seen in Creation. Creation itself is said over and over again in the Old Testament to participate in the worship of the Almighty. Take for example the beautiful canticle *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini* (found on page 88 of our *Book of Common Prayer*) in which the three young men from Daniel’s fiery furnace enlist the cosmos, the earth, and animals of various sorts to sing praises to the Lord.

Or consider the hymn we sang at the Sequence on Easter Day - Venantius Honorius Fortunatus’ Sixth Century text “Welcome, happy morning!” The Good News of the Resurrection is there quite explicitly, but Fortunatus also relies on the hope and abundance of springtime as a metaphor for the same. I used to not care much for that hymn; being a hopeless “city boy”, all the business about fields and flowers and leafy boughs used to leave me rather cold. Perhaps it’s from a decade-and-a-half of ministry in rural areas after my quarter century of more-or-less urban living, but I’ve warmed to that hymn, and even more to the contention that God can be experienced powerfully in the world He made.

So, wherever you find yourself on “the big day”, whether you’re going to a party or (like Annie and me) you’re “hunkering down” at home, I’d encourage you to take a moment to give thanks to God for the beauty of Creation and for His continued provision for us through the same. Pray, as well, that we be given the wisdom and will to conserve that Creation, that its beauties and benefits may be enjoyed by many generations yet to come.

Yours in service to the Gospel,
John †



Thank you to all the choir members for their time and talent in singing the anthem for the Easter Service and to Holly McConnell for accompanying the choir. Much appreciation also goes to Barb Masterson for her leadership!

For you never know when you might meet...

Easter morning brought the traditional flower processional in memory of Tom and Sara Bryant. Following the 10 a.m. service, a brunch of fruit and a delightful array of breads was duly appreciated. Especially nice was the return of several early service attendees to enjoy the repast.

CSG will meet later this spring to plan upcoming activities. Stay tuned.

Ginny Lee Pilstl, Chair

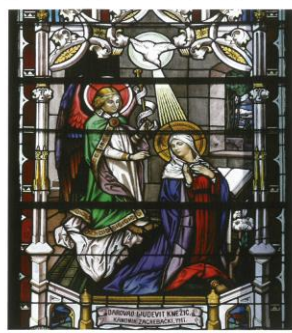
...Christ in a stranger's guise.



YOU MAY request to receive *Tidings* by e-mail. Just let Deborah know you would prefer this method rather than picking up your copy or having it sent to you in the mail. Please include your up-to-date e-mail address! You may call, leave a note in the mailbox in the yellow room, e-mail (trinf128@gmail.com), or just stop in!

A Prayer for April

Lord, we call upon you to shine your light upon us to help guide us through life. May your strength and inspiration lift our spirits so we can continue to spread love and hope throughout the world. May the Lord continue to bless us. Amen



CHURCHMAN'S ORDO — CHURCH YEAR GUIDE —

2024
AVAILABLE IN THE
PARISH HALL
\$7 each – to benefit
the Altar Guild.

Trinity Tidings

SERVERS

At present, the liturgical schedule includes Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers only – and they are greatly appreciated! Especially needed are lectors for 8:30 a.m. and LEMs for 10 a.m. If you would like to take part in future services at Trinity, please let Fr. John or Deborah know.

The sign-up sheet for Sunday flowers is on the bulletin board in the parish hall.



WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

We all need a little prayer and Trinity provides a prayer list each week in the bulletin for those who could use some extra. Would you please take a moment to review that prayer list and help us keep it up-to-date? If there are names which should be removed, let Deborah know. If there is someone on your heart, we can add that person. Thank you!

ITEMS FOR MAY *TIDINGS* SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY APRIL 26TH. THANKS!

TRULY KEEPING IN TOUCH...

Some parishioners not able to attend services, or attend regularly, would enjoy calls or cards from the rest of us, and visits especially from people who know them. Others have moved – so this is an update on their contact information:

Michael McCoy - 350 E 1st Ave, Ajo, AZ 85321 (winter address)

Catherine Albrecht & Michael Romary - 1229 Turner Meadow Drive, Raleigh, NC 27603

Leah Richardson – Primrose Apartments, 3500 W. Elm, Apt. 234, Lima, OH 45807

Romelle Aldrich - 83 Harwood Road, Monroe, NJ 08831

John and Paula Wolper - 2248 Dominion Drive, Fort Mitchell, KY 41017

Dave & Peg Bell – 779 Tupper Street, Brockville, Ontario, Canada K6V6A1

Beverly McCoy – 2911 West High Street, Lima, OH 45807

Bob & Mary Brater – 300 Woodhaven Drive, #2309, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

Marjorie Weaver – 4931 Nettleton, #7105, Medina, OH 44256

Sue Ann Sandusky – 103 Willow Ridge Drive, Bluffton, OH 45817

Jude Davidson – Tiffin Rehab Center, Room 111, 48 St. Lawrence Drive, Tiffin, OH 44883



Trinity Tidings

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PERSONAL NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR AND ABOUT THE TRINITY FAMILY. IF YOU HAVE ITEMS OF INTEREST TO SHARE, (BIRTHS, ENGAGEMENTS, GRADUATIONS, HONORS, AWARDS, WEDDINGS, PERFORMANCES, ACHIEVEMENTS, ACTIVITIES, ETC.) PLEASE SUBMIT THEM BY THE 3rd WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH FOR THE NEXT PUBLICATION.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

04 – Debbie Grove
10 – Michael McConnell
17 – Karen Eubanks
19 – Ty Shaul
20 – Emmarose McConnell
21 – Deb Bartlett
29 – Fred Snyder



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

20 – John Drymon & Annie Stricklin
22 – Bob & Mary Brater
23 – Nancy & Bob Abbey



COFFEE CORNER



APRIL

7th – Annie Stricklin
14th – Barb Masterson
21st – O'Sullivans
28th – Eisentragers

THERE ARE OPENINGS FOR HOSTS!

Please consider adding your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. You don't have to do it alone – several families or a group may host together and it may be as simple as making the coffee and bringing packaged cookies!

THANK YOU for the donations of coffee and decaf!

WHERE DO YOU FIT??

Everyone has special gifts – share yours with your church! Please consider lending your talents to a committee in an area of your interest or skill. Just contact a committee or vestry member or attend a meeting to join.



SUNDAY FLOWERS

Please let Deborah know by noon on Wednesday of that week what you would like printed in the bulletin for your gift of flowers. E-mail to trinfina@att.net or call 419-422-3214. When providing flowers from a florist, they should be delivered to the church between 9 a.m. and noon on Friday. **If you bring flowers in a vase** and would like it returned, please tape your name to the bottom so it doesn't find its way to Trinity's collection and eventual donation. Thanks.



If ever there is a name omitted from one of these lists, or if an item is incorrect, please contact the church office with the information.



"Birds smile with their whistles."