

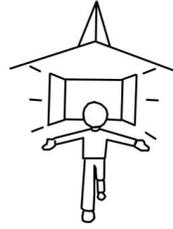
Trinity Tidings

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

Trinity Episcopal Church
128 West Hardin Street
Findlay, Ohio 45840



2026



OUTREACH

Our next trip to help serve dinner at the City Mission will be Saturday, March 28th, from 4-6:30 p.m. Please consider joining us!

The wish list for March for our Mission collection barrel is chili powder, garlic powder, onion powder, salt, pepper, and cornstarch. Thank you for helping keep the barrel full!

We invite all ages to come out to Trinity to make and decorate cards for the residents of local nursing homes on Saturday, March 14th at 9:30 a.m. Bring extra art supplies if you'd like to share, but come either way for a fun activity!

And, as a reminder, we always accept non-perishable food and taxable hygiene products and cleaning supplies, which we regularly deliver to CHOPIN Hall and Christian Clearing House. All our local charities could use the help!

SIGN-UP SHEETS for Maundy Thursday's Agapé meal and the Maundy Thursday Prayer Watch are now on the bulletin board.

CHRIST IN A STRANGER'S GUISE

For you never know when you might meet...

CSG and all who came to the Annual Meeting enjoyed a sumptuous Dimanche Gras thanks to Chefs Funke and Hanson. Larry cooked delicious eggs, sausages, and pancakes while Victoria brought a wonderful King Cake. Anna Funke was the recipient of the piece of cake with the baby Jesus. Thank you to the Chefs.

CSG met the following Sunday to make plans for Maundy Thursday and Easter. Yes, there will be a Maundy Thursday repast, an Easter Egg hunt, and light brunch on Easter Sunday. Stay tuned for details.

Ginny Lee Pilstl, Chair

...Christ in a stranger's guise.

LENTEN OUTREACH

You are invited to pray and donate to a charity during Lent. Each year Outreach provides a prayer form to use during Lent for donations. If you would like to participate, there are forms in the parish hall or you may contact the office if you didn't receive one in the bulletin. If you have any questions, please check with Annie.



THE RECTOR WRITES

(This month's column is the text of the Rector's address, delivered at the annual meeting of the parish on February 15.)

You will not be surprised that I generally prefer the intellectual over the practical, which is not a good or a bad thing necessarily. It just "is what it is." This means that diocesan level formation opportunities generally leave me cold. The focus will be something like "parochial asset mapping", and I'll be daydreaming about attending a lecture on late medieval scholasticism. Sometimes something breaks through my scholarly shell, though. A few years ago at the Winter Convocation, the keynote speaker had written a book called *Invite, Welcome, Connect*, and while I could pick apart her various specific recommendations and lament that this seemed like "just one more program", the broad outline of the thing, encapsulated in the title, seems like a good way to think about church growth. You invite people, you welcome them when they get here, and then you connect them to parish life.

The more I think about it, the more I realize that this is not just a catchy slogan; it is a biblical model. Jesus invites Nicodemus to come in when he comes at night, welcomes him into his presence, and then connects him to the community of believer by way of his saving truth. Ananias does the same for Paul. The Syro-Phoenician woman and the disciples do the same. Over and over again.

I preface the following by saying that I have not been looking at parish profiles advertising vacancies. I did a little over a decade ago before coming here, and from time to time I get a "cold call" or letter from a parish trying to peak my interest, and my interest is only peaked until I read the parish profile and see the poorly hidden landmines.

In any event, every parish calls itself "welcoming" in their self-descriptions. They're also all "diverse", as it happens, and most are "vibrant." If some day I got a cold call from a parish looking for a rector that called itself "standoffish, cliquish, and 'in survival mode'" I might give them a second look, because at least they could claim honesty.

Now, I think Trinity can be proud because it really is pretty welcoming, because you're mostly friendly people and the CSG committee has done yeoman's work in greeting newcomers with gifts and I've seen folks getting invited to coffee hour. We could all always work on being even more welcoming, though I think this is a strong point, and I understand this wasn't always the case here.

And we should be ever mindful of the other two ends of that "spectrum of belonging" - inviting and connecting. I know many of you have done individual work along those lines, actually inviting people to church and helping them find their niche in our common life, but it's work we could all get better at, myself included. I know I sometimes fear being seen as too forward when it comes to inviting people to church and too presumptuous or badgering about getting folks integrated into some aspect of parochial life. I should continue to get over that, and I think most of us could do. So my prayer for 2026 is that we'll do this work together, each in his or her own way.

I think one way we can do this is to take advantage of our diocese's College for Congregational Development. This is one of our bishop's biggest initiatives; she swears by it, and I'm going to get over my preference for intellectual over practical pursuits by pledging now to attend this year if at least two others (preferably more) will step up and do this work with me. It's a two-year program, one week in August 2026 and one in August 2027. This year it's August 2-7 at Bellwether Farm. Tuition, room, and board is relatively expensive, at least by my definition, but I will be asking the vestry to either cover or at least help defray that cost by using the St. Francis Fund, which I think it's fair to say was established with purposes like this in mind. In any event, if you have any interest, please let me know as soon as possible, as the CCD has historically reached capacity and enrollment for 2026 has recently opened.

Whether or not you yourself are interested in that opportunity, we all have the opportunity to become more proactive in inviting folks to church and in connecting them to those aspects of our common life (outreach, fellowship, Christian education, worship ministries, and so forth) that we suspect they might

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be interested in. And we don't need to just suspect; it seems perfectly reasonable to say to somebody "we're making cards for nursing home residents on such and such a date, are you interested?" or "lunch bunch is coming up, want to meet some other church people?" or "gosh, you have a nice voice, have you ever sung in a choir?" Or, to those you know who aren't in a church or aren't so happy where they are, saying "I love my church; want to come sometime?" It may seem presumptuous, but the worst they can say is no, and being a bit embarrassed is not the worst thing in the world (I say that as somebody who's pretty unembarrassable, so your mileage may vary, but I assure you, it will be okay, and experiencing a little rejection is good for conforming us to Christ, anyhow).

I am in my tenth year with you here at Trinity, and ten years in the Midwest have made me feel like I have more of a handle on the culture here than I did back when I arrived. So, as a sojourner among you, who has lived in the South and on the East Coast and overseas, I think I've identified a cultural distinctive and I'm finally comfortable enough with all of you and you know well enough that I love you and I say the following as a genuine compliment. You Midwesterners, unlike any of the people among whom I've lived and many whose regions I've visited, have a superpower. Yours is not a culture that runs on embarrassment and self-consciousness, which gives you a natural confidence which others don't possess. So embrace that. Invite somebody to church. Invite them to lunch. Offer to give them a prayerbook and show them what we do when we get together. Yeah, I do that sort of thing, but it's my job. How much more meaningful when you do it, too? I bet you'd be surprised by the fruits that sort of approach produce.

Yours in service to the Gospel,

John †

MUSIC NOTES



THE CHOIR will meet at 9 a.m. in the parish hall each Sunday in March to rehearse our anthem for Easter. We welcome everyone who would like to join us!

March Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for bringing us to the beginning of a new month. We pray that when the month is over we will be closer to you. Please bless our family and friends and keep them safely in your care. We ask for your healing hand to be upon those who need healing and for your hand of provision to meet each need. We thank you for all you do. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.



WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

We all need a little prayer and Trinity has 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!

THE LATEST directory is available in the parish hall or you may have it mailed or emailed to you. Please let Deborah know if you'd like one sent to you and how.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



- 09 – Mel Proctor
- 18 – Phyllis Watkins, Amy Eisentrager
- 23 – Erica Arthur

NO MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

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 info.



CHURCHMAN'S
ORDO
- CHURCH YEAR GUIDE -

2006

NOW AVAILABLE
in the parish hall.
\$6.00 each to benefit the
Altar Guild.

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 trinfin128@gmail.com 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 into Trinity's collection and eventual donation. Thanks.



Trinity Tidings

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.

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.



OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2026 are available in the parish hall. There are still numbered boxes available (see or let Deborah know), and you may help yourself unnumbered boxes.

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



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 - 1229 Turner Meadow Drive, Raleigh, NC 27603
- Romelle Aldrich - 83 Harwood Road, Monroe, NJ 08831
- Paula Wolper - 2248 Dominion Drive, Fort Mitchell, KY 41017
- Dave & Peg Bell – 779 Tupper Street, Brockville, Ontario, Canada K6V6A1
- Bob & Mary Brater – 300 Woodhaven Drive, #2309, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928
- Marjorie Weaver – 4931 Nettleton, #7105, Medina, OH 44256
- James Marquart - 116 Colle Manuel Domenech #2116, San Juan, PR 00918 USA



Trinity Tidings

ITEMS FOR APRIL TIDINGS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH. THANKS!



LUNCH BUNCH

February's gathering was at the ever popular Preteroti's where everyone enjoyed traditional and bountiful Italian fare. Boxes containing leftovers were plentiful. In March, we will again stay in town, going to Beckett's Burger Bar. The restaurant may have burger in its name but although their burgers are outstanding, there is a full menu of delicious items. Please join us and enjoy both good food and good conversation. Just let Nancy O or Ginny Lee know by Wednesday, March 11th.

WHEN: Friday, March 13, 11:30 a.m. WHERE: Beckett's Burger Bar, 1801 Broad Ave. (former Fin's)
Nancy O'Sullivan
Ginny Lee Pilstl

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!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Lenten tradition of Stations of the Cross will be on Fridays, February 27th through March 27th at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at a local eatery following.



On Good Friday, April 3rd, Stations will be at Noon.

COFFEE CORNER



MARCH

- 1st – Anne & Bob Butcher
- 8th – Barb Masterson
- 15th –
- 22nd – Annie Stricklin
- 29th –

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!

SIGN UP FOR KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Money is donated to Trinity for use to support the community. 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. 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 \$59.73 in the last quarter from a total of 25 households.



Trinity Tidings

Holy Week Timeline



Palm
SUNDAY



Maundy
THURSDAY



Good
FRIDAY



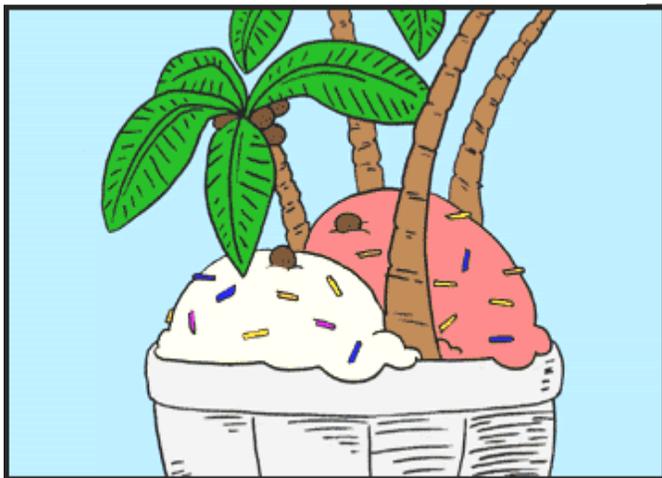
Holy
SATURDAY



Easter
SUNDAY

SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

March 29 – Palm Sunday	8:30 and 10 a.m. Worship
April 1 – Holy Wednesday	6 p.m. Tenebrae
April 2 – Maundy Thursday	6 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper, Agapé meal 9 p.m. – 8 a.m. (April 2-3) prayer watch.
April 3 – Good Friday	8 a.m. prayer watch ends. 12 noon Stations of the Cross, 6 p.m. Liturgy for Good Friday
April 4 – Saturday	6 p.m. The Great Vigil
April 5 – Easter	8:30 and 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Easter Egg Hunt, Brunch



PALM SUNDÆ

Easter flowers may be ordered through March 29th. Plants are \$10 each and payment may be placed in the envelope in the parish hall with order or sent to the office.

While every attempt will be made to fill orders as requested, there may be substitutions dependent upon plant availability.

SERVERS

The liturgical schedule now includes Lectors, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Greeters, and Altar Servers – 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.

TRINITY VESTRY 2006

Senior Warden – Lisa Robeson
Clerk – Liz Funke
Asst. Treasurer – Larry Funke
Greg Eisentrager
Ginny Lee Pilstl
Rick Walter

Junior Warden – Jorgé Rosario-Paris
Treasurer – Peg Dailey
Jude Davidson
Karen Eubanks
Anna Rider