



TRINITY TOPICS

WEEKLY NEWS

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RECTOR'S BLOG

The Porch



Dear Friends,

The weekend essay by David Owen, in this week's *New Yorker* magazine is all about porches. Its title, which is itself long enough to be considered an essay is "Inside Out: The magical in-betweenness – and surprising epidemiological history – of the porch." Owens points out that, during hot months in the era before air-conditioning, a porch was usually the coolest room in a house. Many, although not all homes, are now cooled by artificial climate control, and during steamy weeks, like this past one, we mostly live indoors where the temperature and humidity are comfortable.

Terry and I have an extraordinary front porch at home – one large enough so that, in Spring every year, we create a living room on it. After sweeping and washing the floor, we bring out a cushioned couch and chairs, along with some old wooden rockers we inherited from friends years ago. Because the porch faces east, it's comfortably in the shade during the late afternoon and evening hours, making it the perfect place to eat supper and read a book. A ceiling fan moves the air on still evenings and, when we run it fast enough, keeps the bugs at bay. A small children's table and chairs in one corner hearken back to the time our kids were little, and a climbing hydrangea envelopes one of the two brick pillars.

I don't have a porch here in Toledo; I have a concrete slab outside the living room doors of my apartment instead. My neighbors have done much more with their concrete slabs than I. They've put chairs and tables and plants on them – which represents an act of faith, in my

opinion, given the neighborhood. No furniture has gone missing – proof that the security firm that patrols the parking lots of the apartment complex is an effective deterrent.

Owens writes, “Porches are semi-magical spaces, intermediate between inside and outside.” The idea of a porch being an intermediate space – a space between “in” and “out.” – led the church I served in Granville to call one of its programs, “The Porch.” The program was intended to be a ministry of hospitality and healing for disaffected Christians and, for all, a non-threatening introduction to alternative views of the Christian faith. During sessions held over five consecutive Sunday evenings, participants had the chance to explore Christianity from different points of view, learn how to take the Bible seriously, but not literally, and what it would mean to live a life that incorporated the values of Jesus.

We believed then, and I still believe now, that crossing a church’s threshold for the first time is really hard for many people – especially those who have experienced any kind of trauma in a religious setting. Meeting on a “porch” was a way to lower the threshold.

Trinity may not have a specific program called “The Porch,” but it has many porch-like opportunities. Earlier this year, we welcomed people to view the solar eclipse during “Totality at Trinity.” A huge crowd came to the Plaza for the Fourth of July fireworks. Music & the Arts concert series represent another “porch.” And later this month, Toledo’s Pride observances will give this parish another opportunity to offer a space that’s “intermediate between inside and outside.”

Is there someone you might invite to the coolest room in the house.?

See you on the porch.

Blessings,
Stephen Applegate

JEEPFEST REMINDER

Toledo Jeepfest has taken over downtown Toledo through Sunday noon. Trinity will essentially be inaccessible during Jeepfest, and staff members have been working from home.

A reminder that NO SUNDAY MORNING service will be held at Trinity on Sunday, August 4. The people of St. Michael’s in the Hills Episcopal Church, 4718 Brittany Rd, have graciously offered to welcome Trinity people who want to attend their morning service at 10:00 am.

We will offer an EVENING SERVICE this Sunday at 5:00 pm at Trinity. It will be a full service with Holy Eucharist and great music.

Since Jeepfest will have Jeeps and rubber ducks – it’s a “Jeep thing” – Trinity is capitalizing on this by holding a split-the-pot raffle benefiting Trinity’s Community Breakfast program.

We’ve caught a few of the rubber ducks and crammed them into a transparent plastic container. For a \$5.00 donation, participants get to submit a written guess of how many ducks have flocked to fill the container. You can donate using cash or use our web-based donation kiosk in the sanctuary. We’ve already had a great response. This Sunday evening is the final chance to get in on the action. The winner, if someone guesses the number of ducks correctly, will be announced on Sunday, August 11!

TRINITY PRIDE



T-Shirts – Order Deadline: August 11 at midnight It’s that time of the year again when we stand out in Pride with our incredible t-shirts! Self-ordering is available at Jūpmode’s website which [you can access by clicking here](#). Cut off for ordering is 8/11 at midnight, and we will be handing them out after service by the Columbarium on Sunday 8/18. The colors you can choose from are light blue, light pink, and white to support our trans siblings. Shirts are \$23.35 and come in infant to adult sizes. If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Community Engagement at george@trinitytoledo.org



Pride Kick-Off Family Picnic – Friday, August 23 5:30–7:30pm Join us for food, crafts, music, face-painting, story time for the kids, and much more. This year's picnic will be a potluck, so if you are able; bring a side dish to share. Hot dogs and condiments will be provided along with lemonade and water.

Sign up here for a beautiful evening on our plaza!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-50439173-friday#/>



Pride Saturday – Parade Marchers sign up here

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-50439274-saturday#/>

Promenade Booth – Come represent Trinity and pass out swag and love on people at

Promenade Park [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-50439231-saturday#/
saturday#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-50439231-saturday#/)

Hospitality at 316 Adams – Come help swing open our doors to all who need a place to cool off, use bathrooms or need cold water from 10a – 3pm
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PRIDE DONATIONS



SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE – AUGUST 2024

Parishioners and Friends of Trinity,

The search for a new rector continues to move forward! We are happy to announce that two required formal documents have been sent to the Bishop's Office and approved.

“What documents,” you ask? The Episcopal Church asks that a parish looking for a new rector submit both a Parish Profile and an Office of Transition Ministry report. The Parish Profile is our attempt to tell the outside world who we currently are at Trinity, and to do this as clearly, accurately, and succinctly as possible. The OTM report looks more at some of Trinity's history, ministry and worship style, and the skills we would like our next rector to possess. Both documents relied heavily on our parish-wide Listening Sessions that took place this past spring. Committee members also reached out and listened to members of the Trinity community who could not attend any of these sessions. Our goal was to get as complete a portrait of Trinity Episcopal as possible! To every person who participated by offering their honest answers to our questions, we are sincerely grateful.

These documents will be available online and in print to anyone searching for a rector position for a period of three months, from August 1 – October 31, 2024. During this period, your Search Committee will undergo special training in the interview process from Rev. Aaron Gerlach, our diocesan liaison, before meeting any potential candidates.

This time may seem like a quieter, less active time in the process, and in a way it is. But while there is no communal flurry of activity during these months, other preparations are being made and fertile soil tilled. As always, Search Committee members are prayerfully engaged with one another and fully reliant on the Spirit of God to bring us candidate(s) and, hopefully, that one person who will emerge as our next rector.

When November arrives, we will begin the next phase of interviewing any candidate(s) that seem like a potentially great fit for Trinity. This phase will be very quiet and completely confidential out of respect for the process, and everyone involved.

The Search Committee members: Gail Abood, Mary Beroske, Angie Carriker, Mark Dubielak, LaVonda Johnson, Karen Keune, Allen Santiago, and Suzanne Smitley remain grateful for your participation in this process AND gently ask for your prayers so that we may do our best for Trinity!

ARE YOU CALLED TO SERVE IN THE DIOCESE OF OHIO?

The Nominating Committee for the 208th Diocesan Convention being held November 8 & 9 in Perrysburg, are inviting clergy and lay persons to offer themselves for consideration for the slate of candidates to be nominated for elected offices in the diocese.

According to the Constitution and Canons of the diocese, the Nominating Committee will consider a variety of experiences and service. The Committee's goal is to assemble nominations that will further Christian policies of, and concerns for, fairness, justice, and inclusiveness as outlined in the canons.

Elected office holders need to be lay members in good standing or clergy canonically resident in this diocese.

Trinity has had several of its members serve on diocese committees in the past. Here are the positions for which nominees are being sought:

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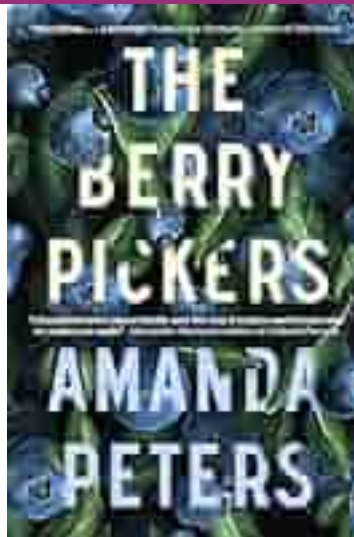
If you would like to know more about any of the positions listed above – why they exist and what they do – please contact the parish office – trinity@trinitytoledo.org, (419) 243-1231.

2ND ANNUAL COMMUNITIES AGAINST VIOLENCE MARCH

2nd Annual Communities Against Violence March and Unity Day

Saturday, August 17 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Smith Park, 998 Dorr St. Free, open to all. [Sign up here](#). Sponsored by Sisters 4 Unity. Contact them at 567-215-0045 or Sisters4Unity419@gmail.com.

BOOK CLUB



Book clubbers! We're taking a bit of a hiatus for July and August but add this to the late summer reading list so it's fresh in your mind for discussion on September 8. Stay tuned for sign up and zoom information. (*Our library has print, ebook and audio copies.)

CALLING ALL HOSTS!



Are you a born host? Do you love creating community around a table with a delicious meal? Then Parish Life wants YOU! Trinity's Pop-Up Dinners are coming back, and we're looking for hosts wanting to create fabulous dinners and host new and old friends in the Trinity Community. You can [sign up here](#), and the Parish Life Team will be in contact soon.

WHO IS JESUS ANYWAY?

Grab a snack at coffee hour and join us in the Walbridge Room as we begin to explore who Jesus is, using Diana Butler Bass' book *Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence* as a springboard. (Here is a [video of the author introducing the book](#) if you'd like to learn more.)

These discussions are open to everyone, whether you have read the book or not, whether you can attend all the sessions or not, whether you know who Jesus is to you or you have no clue. Here are some questions to ponder for this week (Jesus as teacher; Jesus as friend):

- What has been your understanding of Jesus throughout your life? How have you seen that change over the years?
- “Jesus calls us friends. God reaches toward us, not as a fearsome master or judge, but a friend, beckoning us to reach back” (p. 16 of the book). Do you view Jesus as a friend of yours? Why or why not?
- Which of the teachings of Jesus is most compelling or attractive to you? Which teaching is most challenging or frustrating? Why?

The rough schedule for the rest of the sessions:

August 4: No session

August 11: Jesus as Lord

August 18: Jesus as Way

August 25: Jesus as Presence

September 1: Bonus session: The Universal Jesus

If you have any questions, contact facilitators Jolene Miller and Amy Saylor. Bring your questions, we'll bring ours!

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE PLAZA?



Sunday, August 11 @ 11:15 a.m. My Brother's Place

What's Next for the Plaza? Come help plan what our next steps will be to continue bringing our plaza to life. What furniture do we need? Could we plant one more bed this fall? Maybe hostas in the bed along the side of the Four Seagate building, which only gets shade? Other ideas? What uses do you envision for the plaza? Let's celebrate the progress we've made and the wonderful volunteers that have made it happen, and think together about what's next.

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COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

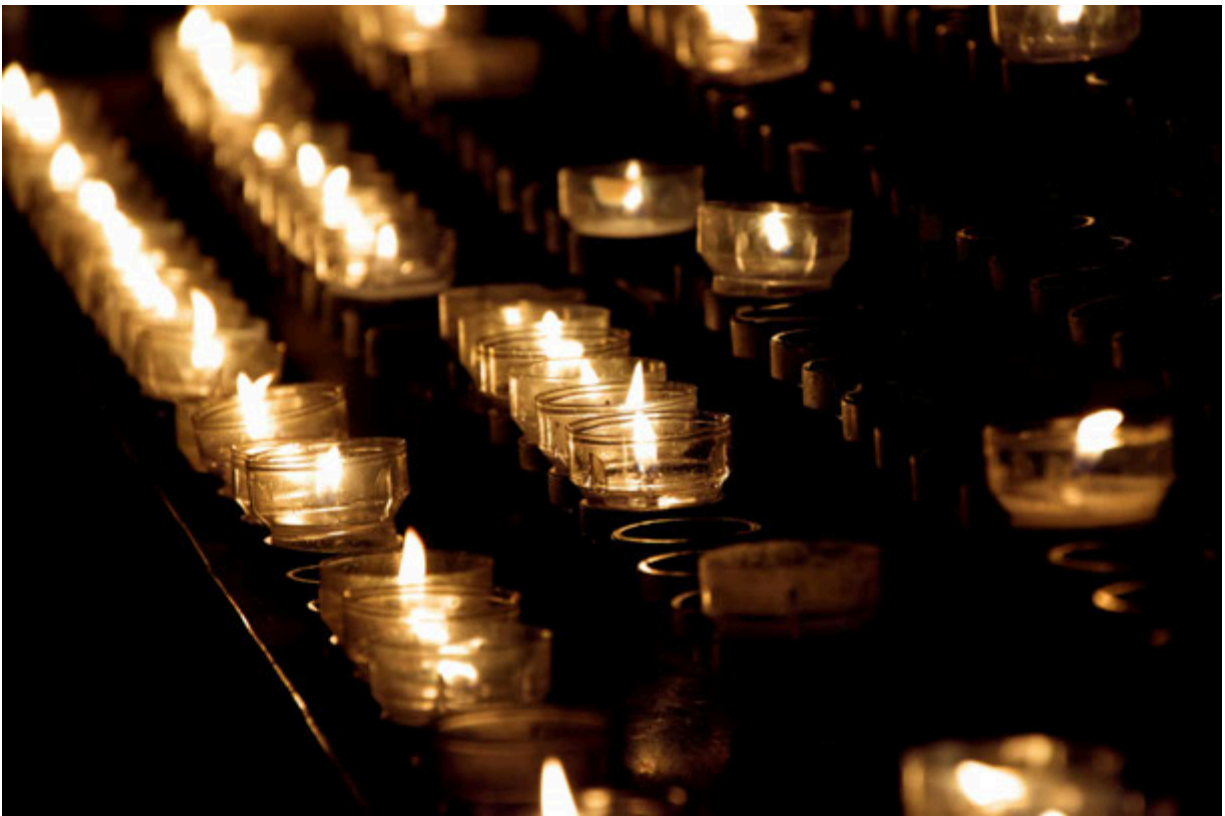
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Presentation of the City of Toledo’s Comprehensive Plan for Neighborhood Safety
Malcolm Cunningham, Director of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety & Engagement (MONSE), will provide an overview of the City of Toledo's new Comprehensive Plan for Neighborhood Safety. Malcolm will host an interactive forum after the plan presentation. Many people from the community have been working on this plan over the past year, and it is bearing fruit in reducing gun violence. Come learn about the positive steps our community is taking! **Free, open to all.** [Sign up here.](#)

[Download information flyer here.](#)

Diocesan Office for Mission Peace and Justice

[Click here for the resources page.](#)

TRINITY PRAYER LIST



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www.trinitytoledo.org/live

EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE

Survivor shares story with Province V on World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

[Episcopal News Service] Rachel Socorro is a human trafficking survivor and a co-founder of Total Life Wellness, an organization that provides support services to trauma survivors with a specialized focus [...]

Bethlehem Moravian church settlement in Pennsylvania named World Heritage Site

Editor's note: The Episcopal Church is in full communion with the the Northern and Southern Provinces of the Moravian Church in America. [Religion News Service] Known for its original Moravian architecture [...]

Leader condemns attack on Gaza church, believed to be the world's third oldest

[World Council of Churches] World Council of Churches general secretary the Rev. Jerry Pillay condemned a July 29 attack on St. Porphyrius Orthodox Church in Gaza, where people have for [...]

Central Pennsylvania, Bethlehem eye vote on diocesan merger; Indiana dioceses' talks advance

[Episcopal News Service] The authorization of a series of diocesan mergers was one of the big stories at the 81st General Convention in June, when bishops and deputies celebrated the [...]



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DEAR FRIENDS

How we care for our children



Dear Friends,

Over the past year, there has been an ongoing conversation about how we can care for our children here at Trinity when it comes to spiritual formation. This is something close to my heart, and it is not because I have a kid here. When I first started volunteering and working for churches, it was in children's ministry. Providing a safe space for children to learn who they are in Jesus is an incredibly important part of caring for the church body. We started down the road earlier this year when we hired Ms. Wendi to staff our nursery. She's been a great addition to our team.

We are now ready to take the next step by expanding what we offer for our 1st – 5th grade kids. Starting Sunday, September 16, we plan to launch Trinity Kid's Sunday School. What would it take to do this?! Great question, and this is where you come in!:

- 12 volunteers who would serve in pairs (2) in a single classroom
- Volunteers serve once every 6 weeks
- Parents can be volunteers; other parishioners especially welcome!

Here's the support and training Trinity will provide:

- Safe Church training (required) – either in-person here in My Brother's Place at Trinity on Saturday, September 7, from 9:00 – 12:30 am. Childcare, coffee & refreshments provided. Or,

- Online Safe Church training (required). Register by contacting Heather at the Parish Office – heather@trinitytoledo.org
- Sunday lessons from Illustrated Ministry curriculum detailing the story, craft, prayer, and expectations for each week.
- Classroom materials and supplies
- Snacks

Here's how a typical Sunday morning would go for that week's volunteers:

- Volunteers of the week meet parents and kids in the sanctuary where kids are "dropped off" to them.
- At 10:05, one volunteer leads the kids upstairs to the Parish House classroom; the other brings up the rear to make sure no kids wander off.
- The volunteers lead the kids through a game, a Bible story, a craft related to the story, and a snack
- When the lesson is finished (10:40 am), the volunteers and kids return to the sanctuary where they meet their parents during the passing of the peace.
- Kids then stay with their parents for the rest of the service.

We are excited to have a number of children worshiping with us. I know we have at least 12 volunteers who will help us kick off Trinity Kids' Sunday School on September 16 because whenever there is an ask here, Trinity shows up! Is God calling you to this ministry?

This has been a banner year for Trinity Episcopal Church as we have launched and sustained new ministries and have seen growth during a transition period. The way y'all continue to show up to support and be present is not something I have ever experienced before in a house of worship. I am so honored to be here serving with and for y'all. If there are any questions, or if I can clarify anything, please reach out and ask me.

Grace and peace,

George Benson (he, him)
 Director of Community Engagement
george@trinitytoledo.org



SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

Saturday September 7th, from 9:00 - 12:30p in My Brother's Place we will be offering Safe Church Training. This is a time where we learn about the prevention of children and youth from abuse, policies to protect children and youth from abuse adapted at each parish, and diocesan-wide policies to protect children and youth from abuse.

Childcare, coffee, and refreshments will be provided!

Questions or interested in attending, please contact
george@trinitytoledo.org

TRINITY PRIDE



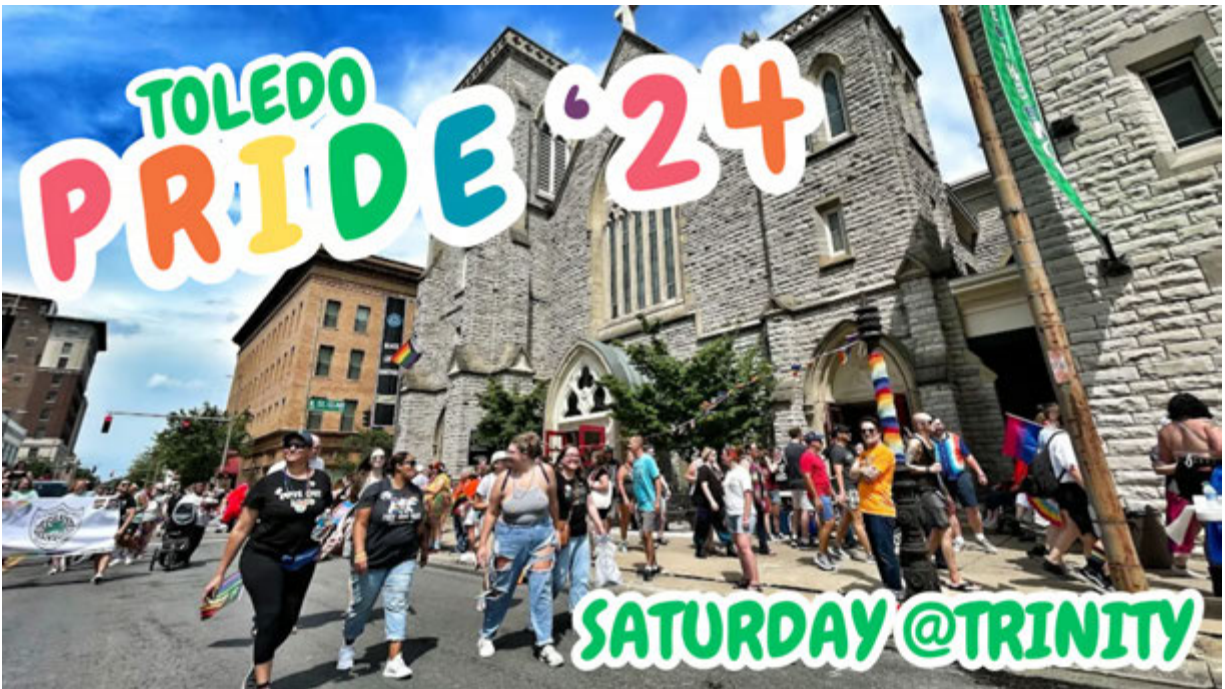
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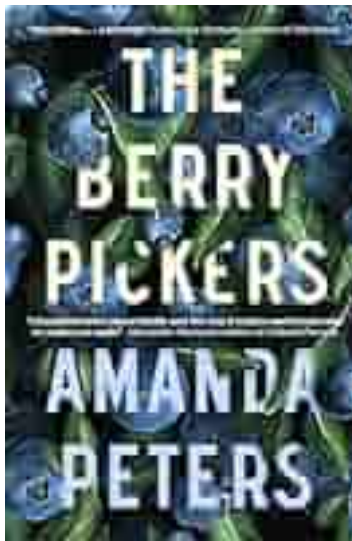
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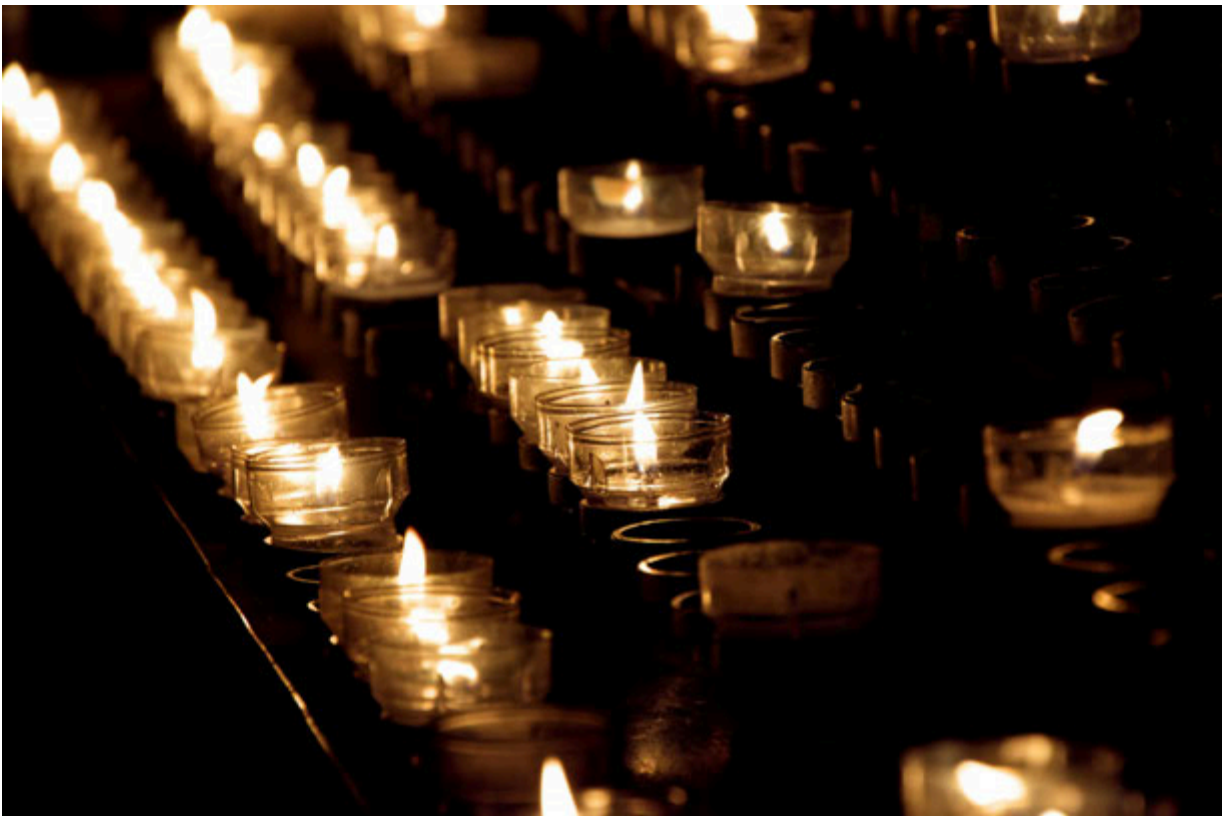
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Justice Sonia Sotomayor visits Kansas City Episcopal church to watch musical rehearsal based on her book

[Episcopal News Service] Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor made a stop at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Kansas City, Missouri, last weekend to watch the first workshop, or draft, of [...]

Medical staff share realities from the field in Gaza

[World Council of Churches] On Aug. 7, a delegation from the World Council of Churches, accompanied by partners from the Middle East Council of Churches, ACT Alliance and Caritas Internationalis, [...]

Anglican leaders in the UK speak out against hatred and violence

[The Church of England] In response to riots and other violence taking place across the United Kingdom that have been fueled by misinformation online, the far-right and anti-immigration sentiment, Archbishop [...]

Five Massachusetts churches have Pride flags, symbols torn down in acts of vandalism

[Episcopal News Service] St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Framingham, Massachusetts, was one of five churches in the state that experienced anti-LGBTQ+ vandalism in the past 10 days. The five churches [...]



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RECTOR'S BLOG

So it goes...



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On Wednesday of this week, our son, Peter, sent photos of his sons on their first day of school. Edward and Sammy started sixth and third grades respectively in the Worthington City School District located just north of Columbus. Their cousins – also our grandchildren – live in New York where school begins after Labor Day (the time of year, in my opinion, when school should start. I suspect my having grown up in Upstate New York influences my opinion about this matter.)

Back-to-school pictures have been popping up in my Facebook feed ever since the beginning of August when schools in Indiana kicked off the 2024–2025 school year. Because I began to serve as interim at St. Christopher's, Carmel in 2017, the little children I knew then aren't little anymore. Elementary school kids are now in high school, and high school students have already graduated from college. As Kurt Vonnegut wrote, "So it goes."

The start of this year's school year feels different from others for me. You see, I've always had someone in our house heading back – my wife, Terry. Her retirement last May has changed the usual rhythm. The advent of August always used to bring a flurry of activity, and although Terry doesn't seem to miss the tasks of ordering supplies, prepping her room, and making name tags for her first graders, I do.

So, it's probably a good thing Trinity's "program year" begins in early September. Its arrival

mitigates the loss of my going back to school, even if my “going back” was vicarious. I’m grateful there’s a similar feeling of anticipation and excitement in the parish as various committees and your staff gear up for the start of the fall “term.”

With PRIDE only a week away, most of the time and energy recently has gone to ensuring Trinity’s celebration of our LGBTQIA+ siblings is beautiful and joyful. This issue of Topics contains information on all the ways to participate and, especially, to volunteer (see below)!

Then it’s Labor Day, the unofficial end of summer. How can that be already? Many enjoy the long weekend with trips to the beach or pool and cookouts. We’ll still have church on September 1 – and feel free to come in summer casual attire!

Then the pace quickens on Adams Street! Here’s a preview of what’s in store:

- Saturday, September 7 – Safe Church Training will be offered in person at Trinity from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm. Sadly, both child and adult sexual abuse happens in churches. Safe Church Training gives church members the tools to recognize and reduce the likelihood of such abuse occurring. The training is mandatory in the Episcopal Church for the clergy, for those who work with children, and for others in leadership positions. Sign up for the class below.
- Sunday, September 8 – “Welcome Back Sunday!” Trinity will welcome Mariachi Mexico 2020 – a terrific mariachi band from Detroit – who will play during the service and at the fiesta afterwards. Trinity’s Choir will be back after their summer hiatus. Plan to join us for a morning of great music and celebration. It’s a good way to kick off national Hispanic Heritage Month when, starting September 15, the history, heritage, and accomplishments of Hispanic and Latino Americans of past and present takes center stage. There’ll also be a photographer taking “School Pictures” as we populate the parish’s database with photos to help the new rector get to know us better.
- Sunday, September 15 – Sunday School classes begin for children where families meet the teachers at the beginning of worship in the sanctuary. After a game, a Bible story, a craft related to the story, and a snack, kids return to the sanctuary to join their families for Holy Communion. For more information contact George Benson, Director of Community Engagement.
- Also on Sunday, September 15 – we begin our fall adult formation offering: “Prepping for Election Day 2024.” What is the relationship between faith and citizenship? What is a Christian’s responsibility as a citizen? What do I need to know about voting? Is American Civil Religion the same as Christian Nationalism? How can we disagree without being disagreeable? What spiritual disciplines can we practice as we approach Election Day on November 5?

Mark your calendars now and be thinking of someone you might invite to join you in one or more of these activities. It’s not back-to-school; it’s Welcome Back! I hope you’re looking forward to it as much as I am.

Blessings,

Stephen Applegate



SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

Saturday September 7th, from 9:00 – 12:30p in My Brother's Place we will be offering Safe Church Training. This is a time where we learn about the prevention of children and youth from abuse, policies to protect children and youth from abuse adapted at each parish, and diocesan-wide policies to protect children and youth from abuse.

Childcare, coffee, and refreshments will be provided!

Questions or interested in attending, please contact
george@trinitytoledo.org

Sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-50690556-diocesan>

GRACE IN TENNESSEE



This week, our own Grace Mauk is attending Victor Wooten's "Spirit of Music" camp located in the mountains of Tennessee. She is attending workshops on meditation, sound healing, and songwriting, with world-class musicians and physicians. If you're unfamiliar with Victor Wooten's work, check out his arrangement of "Amazing Grace" here: <https://youtu.be/zjkFJkbn3vA?si=5B-m1M4yU7FKvkDj> Ever grateful for the continuing education opportunity Trinity's Reycraft legacy gift affords our staff and Rector, Grace will return with a full heart!

CHOIR IS COMING BACK!



Get ready to grab your folder and a fresh pencil because the choir is BACK! Our first rehearsal of the 2024–2025 Choir Season is Thursday, September 5th 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm. And, we are always looking for new members! Do you have a song to sing? Have you wanted to try choir but don't quite have the courage? Email Chelsie at chelsie@trinitytoledo.org to see if the choir could be your next best experience! *Because we are a proud multigenerational group, membership to the choir requires a pitch-matching test and a successful background check.*

TRINITY PRIDE



T-Shirts – Order Deadline: August 11 at midnight It's that time of the year again when we stand out in Pride with our incredible t-shirts! Self-ordering is available at Jūpmode's website which [you can access by clicking here](#). Cut off for ordering is 8/11 at midnight, and we will be handing them out after service by the Columbarium on Sunday 8/18. The colors

you can choose from are light blue, light pink, and white to support our trans siblings. Shirts are \$23.35 and come in infant to adult sizes. If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Community Engagement at george@trinitytoledo.org



Pride Kick-Off Family Picnic – Friday, August 23 5:30–7:30pm Join us for food, crafts, music, face-painting, story time for the kids, and much more. This year's picnic will be a potluck, so if you are able; bring a side dish to share. Hot dogs and condiments will be provided along with lemonade and water.

Sign up here for a beautiful evening on our plaza!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-50439173-friday#/>



Pride Saturday – Parade Marchers sign up here

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-50439274-saturday#/>

Promenade Booth – Come represent Trinity and pass out swag and love on people at

Promenade Park <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-50439231-saturday#/>

Hospitality at 316 Adams – Come help swing open our doors to all who need a place to cool off, use bathrooms or need cold water from 10a – 3pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-50439315-hospitality#/>

PRIDE DONATIONS



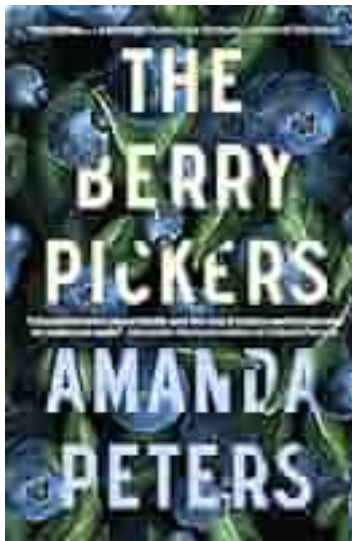
Through August 18 we are asking for donations of 8oz water bottles and hard candy for Pride! You can drop them off at our “drop off station” by the columbarium. PLEASE, no chocolate as it tends to melt in the August sun. Any chocolate donated will be considered a tithe for our Director of Operations. If you have any questions please contact our Director of Community Engagement through email at, george@trinitytoledo.org

2ND ANNUAL COMMUNITIES AGAINST VIOLENCE MARCH

2nd Annual Communities Against Violence March and Unity Day

Saturday, August 17 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Smith Park, 998 Dorr St. Free, open to all. [Sign up here](#). Sponsored by Sisters 4 Unity. Contact them at 567-215-0045 or Sisters4Unity419@gmail.com.

BOOK CLUB



Book clubbers! We're taking a bit of a hiatus for July and August but add this to the late summer reading list so it's fresh in your mind for discussion on September 8.
(*Our library has print, ebook and audio copies.)

[Sign Up Here](#)

WHO IS JESUS ANYWAY?

Grab a snack at coffee hour and join us in the Walbridge Room as we begin to explore who Jesus is, using Diana Butler Bass' book *Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence* as a springboard. (Here is a [video of the author introducing the book](#) if you'd like to learn more.)

These discussions are open to everyone, whether you have read the book or not, whether you can attend all the sessions or not, whether you know who Jesus is to you or you have no clue. Here are some questions to ponder for this week (Jesus as teacher; Jesus as friend):

- What has been your understanding of Jesus throughout your life? How have you seen that change over the years?
- "Jesus calls us friends. God reaches toward us, not as a fearsome master or judge, but a friend, beckoning us to reach back" (p. 16 of the book). Do you view Jesus as a friend of yours? Why or why not?
- Which of the teachings of Jesus is most compelling or attractive to you? Which teaching is most challenging or frustrating? Why?

The rough schedule for the rest of the sessions:

August 18: Jesus as Way

August 25: Jesus as Presence

September 1: Bonus session: The Universal Jesus

If you have any questions, contact facilitators Jolene Miller and Amy Saylor. Bring your questions, we'll bring ours!

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

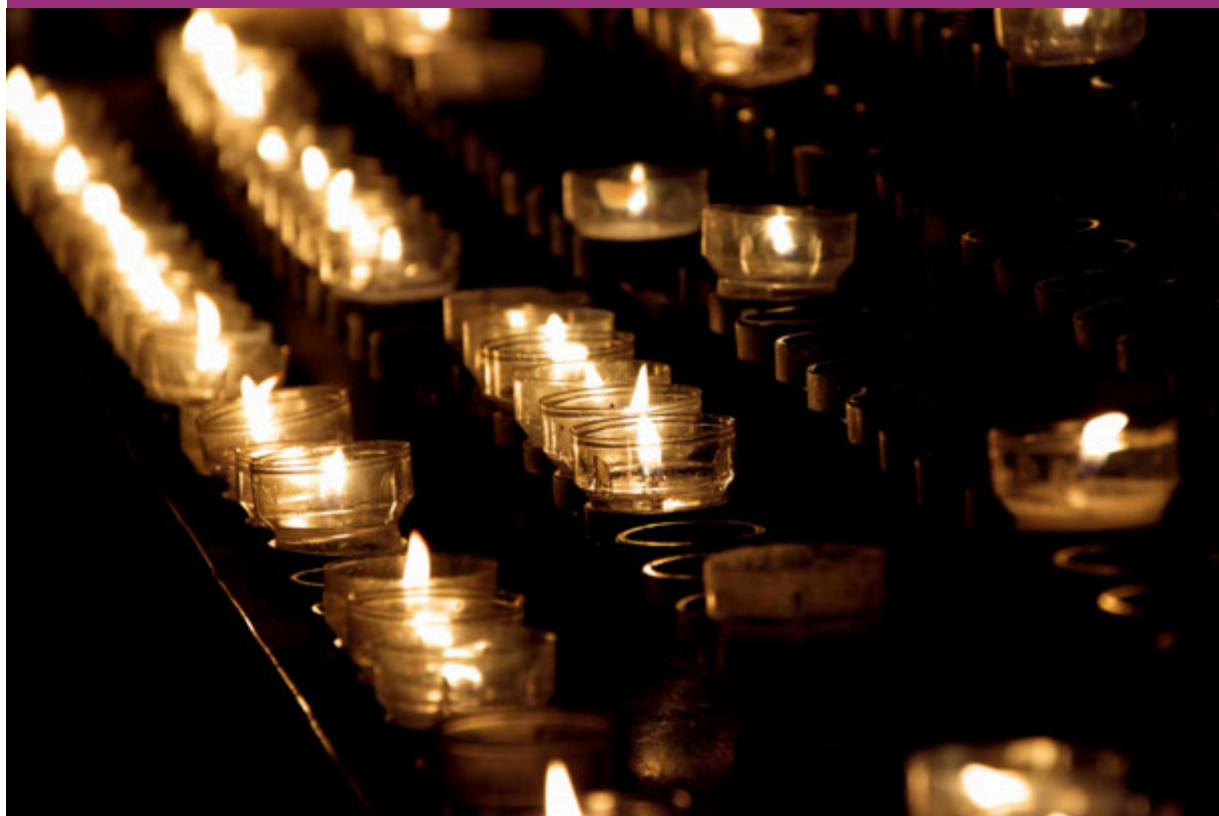
Sunday, August 18 1:00–3:00 p.m. Epworth United Methodist Church, 4855 Central Ave.
Presentation of the City of Toledo's Comprehensive Plan for Neighborhood Safety
Malcolm Cunningham, Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety & Engagement (MONSE), will provide an overview of the City of Toledo's new Comprehensive Plan for Neighborhood Safety. Malcolm will host an interactive forum after the plan presentation. Many people from the community have been working on this plan over the past year, and it is bearing fruit in reducing gun violence. Come learn about the positive steps our community is taking! **Free, open to all.** [Sign up here.](#)

[Download information flyer here.](#)

Diocesan Office for Mission Peace and Justice

[Click here for the resources page.](#)

TRINITY PRAYER LIST



Did you know that Trinity has an active prayer list? If you'd like prayers for yourself or for someone you know, you can request them by contacting the Trinity office (trinity@trinitytoledo.org or 419-243-1231) or our interim rector, Stephen Applegate (in person or via email at stephen@trinitytoledo.org).

At the moment, all prayer requests are shared only with a small intercessory prayer group who, along with parish clergy, offer recurring prayers for each request. This is not a closed group. If you want to join Trinity parishioners who've committed to the practice of regularly praying for others, ask Stephen about joining the prayer team.

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TRINITY@HOME LIVE-STREAM

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www.trinitytoledo.org/live

EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE

St. Paul's Cathedral in Victoria, Australia, to be site of prayer vigil for refugees

[The Melbourne Anglican] Christians will be asked to pray for an end to cruelty to refugees, including those left in Papua New Guinea and Nauru, at an Aug. 16 vigil [...]

Mennonite-Anglican Ecumenical Dialogue in Canada continues conversations

[Anglican Church of Canada] The most recent meeting of the Mennonite-Anglican Dialogue in Canada took place earlier this summer in Winnipeg. The Mennonite-Anglican Dialogue in Canada was created in 2017 [...]

New York youth embark on Jonathan Daniels pilgrimage, visit historic Civil Rights' sites

[Episcopal News Service – Hayneville, Alabama] Angel Williams, a 15-year-old from New York City, thought she already knew a lot about the Civil Rights Movement from her high school U.S. [...]

World Council of Churches releases media briefing on digital visit to the Holy Land

[World Council of Churches] The World Council of Churches, accompanied by partners from the Middle East Council of Churches, ACT Alliance and Caritas Internationalis, released a video media briefing on [...]

Trinity Episcopal Church, 316 Adams St, Toledo, OH 43604, United States



TRINITY TOPICS

WEEKLY NEWS

WORSHIP WITH US SUNDAYS AT 10AM

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RECTOR'S BLOG

Pride is a high holy day



Dear Friends,

Every Episcopal parish I've known has its "high holy days." I'm not talking about Christmas and Easter. Those are *the church's* high holy days. I'm talking about the days that, for a variety of local reasons, *a parish* observes in some special way.

Let me give you an example: the Sunday closest to the Fourth of July at St. Luke's Granville.

It's hard to capture in words the Village of Granville during the week of Independence Day. The central Ohio village of just under 6,000 residents delivers a quintessential Midwestern celebration of patriotism. Fireworks, a parade, a carnival midway that takes up two blocks of downtown (okay, so downtown is only two blocks long), pet costume judging, egg tosses, and a bandstand offering everything from rock and roll to kids' dance troupes – it's all there. Food vendors offer elephant's ears, fresh squeezed lemonade, and every imaginable fried food. Oh, one more thing. . . the Pharaoh's Fury ride is set up right outside the front door of St. Luke's. You get the picture.

The church – adopting the attitude of "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em" made the Sunday closest to the Fourth of July its local high holy day. Since *The Book of Common Prayer* offers readings and prayers for Independence Day and Hymnal 1982 has a section called "National Songs," the parish went all in. Because the Fourth of July in Granville is a time when many return to the village to visit family and friends, St. Luke's billed the day as a parish

homecoming. Terry and I were in charge of coffee hour and gave it an appropriately corny name – “Apple Pie with the Applegates.” The liturgical colors for the week were red, white, and blue.

Pride is one of Trinity’s high holy days.

This weekend’s colors are the colors of the rainbow, plus the five colors that have been added for the Progress Pride Flag – black, brown, light blue, pink, and white. Trinity’s celebration begins tonight with a picnic on the Plaza from 5:30–7:30 pm. Tomorrow – Saturday – parishioners will offer hospitality from 10:00 am–3:00 pm. Folks will march in the Parade that begins at noon, and staff Trinity’s booth in Promenade Park throughout the day.

Most importantly, we’ll offer thanks and praise to God on Sunday morning at 10:00 am. Because Pride is a high holy day, Bishop Anne has approved liturgical changes for this week’s service that gives the Trinity faith community the opportunity to pray with intention for the LGBTQIA+ community – for every person who is created in God’s image – and that means for everyone.

Happy Pride, Toledo! Happy Pride, Trinity! Remember that you are loved!

Blessings,

Stephen Applegate

COVID-19 UPDATE

Yogi Berra, who had many notable, quotable sayings, like “Baseball is 90 percent mental. The other half is physical,” once said, “It ain’t over ‘til it’s over.” He wasn’t talking about COVID-19 when he said it, but he might as well have been.

KP.3.1.1, of the Omicron family, is now the predominant SARS-CoV-2 variant circulating in the United States. The number of cases has been rising since June. The sprinter Noah Lyles, gold medalist in the 100 meter dash and the 4x100 meter relay, finished with a bronze in the 200 meter – an amazing result given that he had been diagnosed with COVID before the race began. This week, Governor Mike DeWine tested positive with the illness and has started taking the anti-retroviral therapy, Paxlovid, as advised by his doctor. And an increasing number of less famous people have gotten sick.

Since church is a place where people gather indoors with others, here are some thoughts and suggestions for reducing the spread of COVID and other respiratory illnesses:

- If you are experiencing symptoms, please don’t attend church in person. Trinity offers a live-stream of our 10:00 am service every Sunday, and the recording of the service is

available on YouTube after Sunday. There's a button on the parish's home page where you can access the service – www.trinitytoledo.org

- It's okay to wear a mask! KN-95 masks will be available at the entrances to the sanctuary along with hand sanitizer. Masks aren't required, but they are recommended for people in higher risk groups.
- Wash your hands frequently. Handwashing isn't just good for attending church – it helps reduce the spread of contagious diseases all the time.
- Get a COVID shot (and a flu shot) when the new vaccines become available in early September. Check with your care provider to see if, for some reason, you should get a dose of the current vaccine before the new ones arrive.

Although immunity levels are higher because of vaccines and other reasons, some people are at higher risk for serious illness or long COVID. "Loving your neighbor as yourself," means taking precautions that help our most vulnerable parishioners and neighbors, too! Together we can make a healthier environment possible at Trinity!

CCD – An Overview



The College for Congregational Development (CCD) program was launched in the Diocese of Ohio with its first training class (Year A) from August 11–16 at Bellwether Farm.

CCD is a comprehensive two-year Episcopal Church training program designed to promote healthy, faithful and effective congregations of all sizes. Approximately 40 lay and clergy

participants from across our diocese, including Trinity's first congregational team of George Benson, Hugh Grefe, and Becky Roth, spent an intense week exploring tools that will help Trinity fulfill our calling to be the body of Christ in downtown Toledo.

Along with volunteers from the congregation, the team will teach us how to apply those tools and models to look at our current situation (Who are we? Who is our neighbor?), discern our future with the Holy Spirit's guidance (What does it mean to be a good neighbor downtown? What is God already doing in our congregation and in our neighborhood?), and develop the strategies and processes to move us into that future (How might we get there from here?). The Trinity team is already planning its first simple project applying the CCD methods; watch for more details this fall about how you can get involved.

The next diocesan CCD training (Year B) is scheduled for August 10–15, 2025. The two classes don't need to be taken in order, so if you're interested in making a commitment to support the health and faith of the Trinity community, please speak to Stephen or one of the three team members.



You're invited to Trinity's WELCOME BACK FIESTA! September 8th 2024 right after service. With walking tacos, rock painting and a LIVE MARIACHI BAND, this is an afternoon you don't want to miss!!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Volunteer for 8/27



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Sign up here for a beautiful evening on our plaza!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-50439173-friday#/>



Pride Saturday – Parade Marchers sign up here

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-50439274-saturday#/>

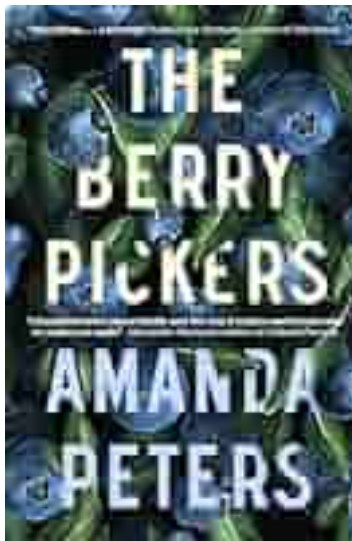
Promenade Booth – Come represent Trinity and pass out swag and love on people at

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Hospitality at 316 Adams – Come help swing open our doors to all who need a place to cool off, use bathrooms or need cold water from 10a – 3pm

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BOOK CLUB



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The rough schedule for the rest of the sessions:

August 25: Jesus as Presence

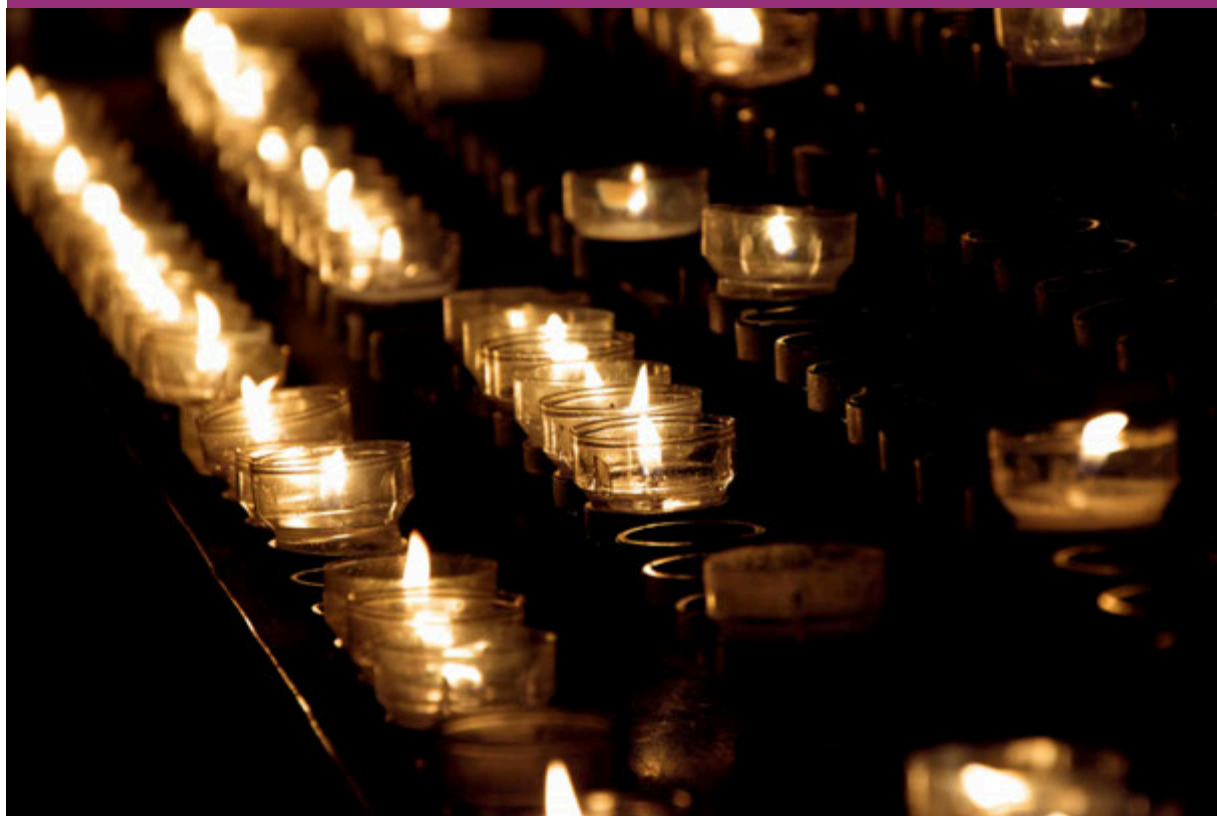
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Diocesan Office for Mission Peace and Justice

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EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE

Arizona Episcopalians gather in Phoenix for Indigenous boarding schools listening and healing pilgrimage

[Episcopal News Service — Phoenix, Arizona] Upon learning from a 2022 federal report that the state of Arizona had the second highest number of known Indigenous boarding schools in the [...]

Diocese of Georgia to sell diocesan offices, move into building of shuttered church

[Episcopal News Service] The Diocese of Georgia plans to move from its current diocesan offices into another Savannah building vacated last year when one of the diocese's churches closed, a [...]

African churches, church health organizations on alert as mpox spreads

[World Council of Churches] Churches in Africa remain on alert as mpox continues to spread in parts of the continent, prompting international health organizations to declare it a health emergency. [...]

New York gives \$1.5 million to help Cathedral of St. John the Divine expand social service ministries

[Episcopal News Service] The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine announced Aug. 20 that it had received a \$1.5 million grant from the city of New York to renovate [...]