

TRINITY TOPICS

WEEKLY NEWS

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DEAR FRIENDS

"Springing"



Dear Friends,

This weekend, we will usher in Daylight Savings Time at 2:00 a.m. EST on Saturday, March 9th, by "springing" our clocks ahead an hour. With it comes extended daylight hours and the anticipation of warmer weather. Spring is

approaching.

Like all changes, there are challenges even when we anticipate and welcome them. We switch our external clocks an hour forward while our internal clocks lag a bit, trying to catch up. For many of us, our biorhythms take much longer to adjust to this hour shift.

Time, or the changing times, seems to have that effect on us. Whether we're adjusting the hands of a clock or witnessing history unfolding before us, we can all agree that change is often an unsettling yet undeniable constant. Still, it endures, just as we do.

Lent is also upon us, just before our time change on Saturday. A sacred time of sacrifice, giving, and prayer. One could imagine no bigger change or uncertainty than Jesus' experience as he walked into the desert ahead of his impending death. Alone, weary, tired, hungry, tempted, afraid, yet persisted for us and with us.

As we walk through our metaphorical clocks springing forward, watching the world in all its chaos swirl, let us be reminded of the persistence, faith, and hope of Jesus during his 40 days and nights in the desert. That the loss of an hour is no comparison to the loss of a life for us and our sins. However, we choose to sacrifice, give, or pray during this Lenten season, a time of change and a change of time, let it be knowing that we can do so with the assurance that no more tremendous sacrifice was made than that which he made for us. And he will rise, as will we. Through trials and uncertainties, chaos and hatred, he suffered, died, and was buried...but rose again. So shall we.

Karen Keune



Friends, it's time to throw an after-church Trinity Party like no other! March 16th, Trinity welcomes home our next Rector, Jon+ and his husband, Michael. We need YOUR HELP! Trinity's got the sandwiches and beverages covered, but we need your magnificent side dishes and desserts. Please RSVP at the link below and let us know what fabulous side dishes you'll be bringing. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/welcomehomejonandmichael

LENTEN SUPPER AND BOOK STUDY STARTS MARCH 12

One of Trinity's Lenten traditions is to gather on the Wednesdays in Lent to gather to share a simple meal and have discussion. This year, we've chosen to read Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde's 2023 book, *How We Learn to be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith*. Church will

have a small number of copies of the book to purchase at cost (\$28) from a local independent bookstore, though copies of the book can be purchased on your own (including Kindle and audiobook formats). Our supper and discussion series begins on Wednesday, March 12, at 6:00 pm. Discussion will begin around 6:45 pm. To give some cushion time for book delivery, on March 12, we will be watching a video of Bishop Budde. Please sign up for supper so that we can plan appropriately.

PS – If you can only make some of the sessions, that's fine. Come when you can! https://www.signupgenius.com/go/howwelearntobebrave

KATE BOWLER 'THE HARDEST PART' 40 DAY DEVOTIONAL

"Life is this strange, tender mix, isn't it? Joy and sorrow, love and loss, heartbreak and hope, all tangled together. This year, we invite you to embrace Lent as it is—raw, honest, and tender. This is the season that asks us to stop pretending we're holding it all together. It's a time to pause, sit with what's fragile and unfinished, and let God meet us in the hardest parts of our lives."

You're invited to use this Lenten devotional to draw closer to God in the hard time. Each day in Lent (except for Sundays) has a reflection, a prayer, and a question or topic for you to explore. On each Sunday in Lent (except for March 16), we will be gathering in the Walbridge Room after church for open discussion – all are welcome! Download the Hardest Part Daily Guide here: https://katebowler.com/lent/

We will also have a small number of printed guides available.



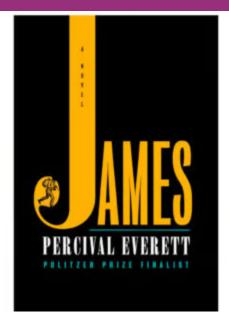
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There is elevator access. This tour will require walking unlike our kick-off tour. Our own Heather Meyer is excited to guide us!

BOOK CLUB



Join the book worms on Sunday, March 16 at 6:30pm via Zoom to discuss *James*, a book by Percival Everett. A brilliant reimagining of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*—both harrowing and ferociously funny—told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.

Sign Up Now

MARDI GRAS FUN!



We packed My Brothers Place last Sunday to celebrate Fat Tuesday. Thanks to all who joined us. A special thanks to our amazing cooks and kitchen help. The life of this parish continues to grow and celebrate with one another!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Join us for women's Bible study on March 15th from 9:00-10:30 am. We will explore and pray with the gospel selection appointed for the following day at church. Bring a Bible (print or online) and an open heart. The great news is that it doesn't matter how much experience you have (or don't have) with scripture. We'll learn together.

When you sign up, you'll include your email address. The week of Bible study, Jolene will email you directions to the house and a copy of the passage under discussion, so you can read it in advance. If you have any questions, please email <u>jolene278@gmail.com</u>.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AADAC23A0FD0-54105807-womens

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EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE

Saint Augustine's University loses appeal, pursues arbitration in fight to keep accreditation

[Episcopal News Service] Saint Augustine's University, the historically Black college with Episcopal roots in Raleigh, North Carolina, has been dealt...

Los Angeles-area church's ministry brings new dresses to girls, renewed energy to congregation

[Diocese of Los Angeles] Members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pomona, California, launched a ministry to help dress young girls around the world...

Wisconsin church turns basement storage room into intimate theater hosting professional shows

[Episcopal News Service] Inside St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in River Hills, Wisconsin, a short walk down a flight of stairs gets you to a...

Ash Wednesday services help people mark the start of Lent churchwide

[Episcopal News Service] Churches across The Episcopal Church marked Ash Wednesday with services and the imposition of ashes in churches, parks,...

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DEAR FRIENDS

Why is that a big deal?



Dear Friends,

In this week's lectionary readings, we find a conversation and ritual between God and Abram. This is a passage for which I have a deep love. We read the details: God promising Abram not just an offspring but the land of the Canaanites. What we really see is

something even better. Abram, who has long arranged sacrifices in a specific way, FALLS ASLEEP waiting on God to seal the covenant between the two.

Why is that a big deal?

In the Ancient Near East, animals were slaughtered as a way to seal an oath. Two people would walk down this bloody path, and if one of them broke the oath, a curse was accepted along the lines of, "if I am to break this oath, may I become like the slaughtered animals." Abram, waiting to walk down this path, falls asleep, and CAN'T MAKE THE PROMISE. So instead of leaving Abram and his offspring cursed and solely responsible for the future, God does the unexpected. God appears like a smoking pot and pillar of fire (two incarnations we see God as in the exodus) and goes down the path by Themself and takes responsibility for the future. This is why I love this passage. So often we read parts like this in the Old Testament and skip over the incredible history and imagery behind it. It's a perfect example of the beauty and mystery in the poetic nature of God.

Friends, we have been on a long journey to get to where we are this week, and at times, in the

silence, some of us may have felt like Abram. Accidentally falling asleep waiting for God to show up and do what God said God would, afraid of the repercussions of choosing or doing the wrong thing. And what happens when Abram falls asleep? God shows up, and God takes responsibility for Abram's future. Even here, this is our God of hope and promise.

Trinity in two years has had three priests, and we have not ceased praying for this community because we believe in hope. We have not stopped the momentum over the past two years of what God is opening our hearts to do in this community because we believe in promise. And my friends, the Spirit has brought us home to this Sunday. We did not have a smoking pot or pillar of flames, instead, a search committee and a vestry, guided by the Spirit to this weekend. And for that, we, like Abram, give thanks to the Lord.

Grace and peace, George



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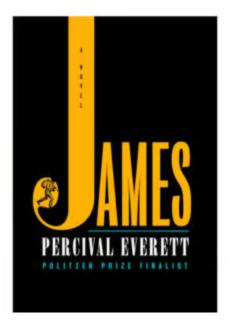


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GET INVOLVED - BREAKFAST AT TRINITY



Are you new and are wondering what all this talk is about a breakfast program? Have you been at Trinity a while and are looking to volunteer? Come check out the volunteer meeting for Breakfast at Trinity on March 23 after service. This ministry has been operating for almost a full year in the public eye, and we are going to be discussing it. Questions, comments, concerns? Email our Director of Community Engagement at george@trinitytoledo.org

SAVE THE DATE

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Pride Meeting March 30 Right after service we will be heading up to the second floor to My Brothers Place where will be starting our 2025 planning and have a few other things in store. Questions or comments? Email our Director of Community Engagement at george@trinitytoledo.org

PLAZA DESIGN MEETING



April 5: The plaza will bloom with new life this spring! Come help design the plaza's garden beds on Saturday, April 5 from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in My Brother's Place. We'll brainstorm about possibilities for each of the plaza's garden containers, and then decide how to phase in our vision during this year and next year. This will be a fun, hands-on activity. Some options include:

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POP-UP DINNERS



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EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE

Affordable senior housing complex opens at Los Angeles-area Episcopal church

[Diocese of Los Angeles] The March 12 opening of Orchard View Gardens, the affordable 66-unit senior housing complex at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church...

New York bishop condemns Trump administration's attempt to deport Palestinian protester

[Episcopal News Service] New York Bishop Matthew Heyd has issued a statement condemning the attempted deportation of a lawful permanent U.S. resident...

New Jersey church seeks approval to open 17-bed homeless shelter on property

[Episcopal News Service] A church in the Diocese of New Jersey is seeking authorization to build a 17-bed homeless shelter next to an existing...

Church in Wales responds to sentence for former bishop who admitted indecent assaults on a child

Note: The Church in Wales has issued the following statement about Anthony Pierce, the former bishop of Swansea and Brecon, who in February admitted...

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DEAR FRIENDS

Big Transitions



Dear Friends,

I am still basking in the glow of our first Sunday together. I hope you are, too.

I know that big transitions (in any aspect of our lives – church is just one) can feel like an unsettling time. The nature of the experience is

change. And change often means we won't know what to expect.

Our transition at Trinity is still ongoing – it didn't just end because I've arrived. Now we're into the part of the transition that involves us learning more deeply about each other. What change will we bring to each other's lives and to each other's experience of the practice of faith? The reality is, we will change each other. That's why we've been called together – not to stagnate together, but to grow together.

If we're wise, we'll look at this season of transition as more than a season. If we're wise, we'll embrace this time as a road map for embracing the truth that we are being called to grow together – to always be in transition together.

I know inertia can be a powerful force, but community inertia only has as much power as we give it. I pray that we will resist it. I pray that we will commit to growing together. I pray that we will live in transition – not for a season, but as a central element of our vocation.

I look forward to discovering the ways that I will grow through you and with you.

Blessings, Jon+



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Dallas-area Iranian Episcopalians to observe Nowruz, the Persian new year

[Episcopal News Service] Grace Community Episcopal Church, a Farsi-speaking church plant of the Diocese of Dallas in Plano, Texas, will host a public...

Ghana bishop is new chair of Commission for Theological Education in the Anglican Communion

[Anglican Communion News Service] The Anglican Communion Office has announced the appointment of the Rt. Rev. Victor Atta-Baffoe as the new chair of...

World Council of Churches head condemns attacks in Gaza and Yemen

[World Council of Churches] World Council of Churches general secretary the Rev. Jerry Pillay expressed deep alarm and grief over the deadly attack...

The Māori Anglican Church welcomes Anglican Communion secretary general, others, for pilgrimage

[Anglican Communion News Service] The Māori Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia (Te Hāhi Mihinare ki Aotearoa ki Niu Tīreni, ki...

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DEAR FRIENDS

Protect Trans Kids



Dear friends,

Our trans siblings have always existed, and will always exist no matter what any political or religious entity says. According to the Williams Institute, 0.6% of Americans identify as Transgender, yet, our siblings have been attacked time and again. As we look to celebrate Transgender Day of Visibility on the 31st, we will also celebrate it on Sunday morning. As a church that recognizes the image of God in all peoples, we look forward to

raising up our Trans siblings not just this weekend, but throughout the whole year.

Trinity drew its line in the sand in 2023 when we adopted "Protect Trans Kids" as our theme for Pride, and we still proudly stand with our trans siblings. We are still committed to calling our representatives and working to steer them to protect our trans siblings in any way possible, and we always will be.

May we remember always that trans rights are human rights, and all human rights are worth protecting.

Grace and peace, George Benson (he/him)

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! JOIN US FOR OUR LENTEN ACTIVITIES

Friends, it's not too late to join us for our Lenten activities!

- Wednesdays, 6:00 pm: soup supper and a discussion of Bishop Mariann's book How we Learn to Be Brave. Didn't read the book? That's okay. We want you with us!
- Sundays, after church: discussion of Kate Bowler's online Lenten devotional, The Hardest Part. (You can download the <u>daily guide here</u>.) This beautiful devotional invites us to sit in the mess of our lives with God not to "fix it," not to "improve" (the spiritual journey is not about that), but to experience God's presence in real life (the spiritual journey is about that). Let's be here for one another on the journey.

Questions? Email Jolene Miller at jolene 278@gmail.com.



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You have SIX different opportunities to join in the fun of sharing a meal with your Trinity friends. Follow the link for all the details on Sign Up Genius!

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Pittsburgh church service, other remembrances mark five years since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic

[Episcopal News Service] At Calvary Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the 11 a.m. Eastern service on March 16 was a special observance of...

Secretary general visits the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

[Anglican Communion News Service] The secretary general of the Anglican Communion, the Rt. Rev. Anthony Poggo, was welcomed in Lae, the...

Africa-Europe forum calls on churches to enhance protection of migrants

[World Council of Churches] The Second Africa-Europe Ecumenical Forum on Migration took place March 17-21 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, organized by the...

Los Angeles-area interfaith iftar is 'a beautiful way of loving one another'

[Diocese of Los Angeles] For 12-year-old Messiah, the 45-mile trip from Hesperia to St. Ambrose Episcopal Church in Claremont, California, for a...

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