

TRINITY TOPICS

WEEKLY NEWS

WORSHIP WITH US SUNDAYS AT 10AM

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Office of Government Relations



Dear Friends,

On Tuesday morning Becky Koskinen, Phil Skeldon, Mark Dubielak, and I will be driving out to Washington D.C. to meet with a few congressional reps, as well as dropping in to see our senators. During that time, we will also be delivering letters the Trinity Response Team wrote expressing frustration with the current administration and asking for support.

This trip will include a meeting with members of the Office of Government Relations. With the advocacy work Trinity members have been working on, we feel it is important to start a relationship with them and those who work in the Episcopal Public Policy Network. This visit that the four of us are taking on behalf of Trinity is hopefully the first of many. Please keep us in your prayers as we drive to and from our nation's capital and for the conversations we will have during our time there.

If you are feeling compelled to write a letter for us to take to our congressional reps, please feel free to bring it on Sunday. I will be happy to add it to the pile and look forward to letting you all know how it goes!

Grace and peace, George Benson

CALLING ALL STAR WARS FANS!



This Sunday is May Fourth, and we're calling all our Star Wars fans! Bring your lightsabers, wear your costumes and favorite Star Wars apparel to church this weekend, and MAY THE FOURTH(CE) Be with You!!

PLAZA WORK DAYS - NEXT 3 SATURDAYS



Tomorrow - Saturday, May 3 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon Soil Day. Fear not, friends. We are having the soil delivered up to the Plaza for us this year. Our job is to spread the soil mixtures to get the beds ready for planting on May 10 and 17.

Saturday, May 10 1:00-4:00 p.m. Afternoon session of planting! We still need a few volunteers to help transport the native plants from Whitehouse to Trinity that morning. Let Bruce or Meribah Mansfield know if you can help buy plants (not at your expense, the grant will pay for them).

Saturday, May 17 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Come help plant the Children's Garden! Young and old alike, join in the fun to help our kids grow in their involvement with our community.

BELLWETHER FARM SUMMER CAMP

SUMMER CAMP IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Looking for a screen-free summer experience where your child can explore the outdoors, learn new skills, and build lifelong friendships? Bellwether Farm offers a close-knit and supportive community for just that purpose! Our Summer Camp is a place where every child is celebrated, encouraged, and given the space to grow in confidence, independence, and a love for the outdoors. Located in Wakeman, OH, less than an hour from downtown Cleveland, your child can get away without being far away.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT HTTPS://BELLWETHERFARM.COM/CAMPS





WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study Meets May 17

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

BOOK CLUB



May 18 at 6:30pm (Zoom) - Wandering Stars by Tommy Orange Extending his constellation of narratives into the past and future, Tommy Orange traces the legacies of the Sand Creek

Massacre of 1864 and the Carlisle Indian Industrial School through three generations of a family in a story that is by turns shattering and wondrous. Grab your book and sign up to be a part of this spirited group! <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/Trinitybookclubmay</u>

SCAM ALERT

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TRINITY@HOME LIVE-STREAM

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EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE

New Jersey town moves to seize property of Episcopal church that wants to open homeless shelter [Episcopal News Service – Toms River, New Jersey] An Episcopal congregation here, after facing months of backlash from some neighbors in response to...

Former Maryland bishop to serve as assistant bishop in Diocese of Washington [Episcopal News Service] Washington Bishop Mariann Budde announced April 30 that

former Maryland Bishop Eugene Sutton will join the Diocese of...

UPDATED: Presiding bishop joins Supreme Court brief opposing public funding of religious schools

Long Island diocese's 'Fight for the Earth' event promotes environmental stewardship [Episcopal News Service] Long Island, New York, is renowned for its beaches, wineries, affluent seaside towns, historic neighborhoods and art scene....

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



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DEAR FRIENDS							

Reasons to be Grateful



Dear Friends,

There are a few spiritual disciplines that I've discovered in the course of my life that have had a legitimate role in shaping me and helping me to become a more mature and genuine practitioner of the Christian faith. One of those disciplines is a conscious commitment to looking for reasons to be grateful.

A truth I've come to know as a person growing into Christianity (we're all growing – no one has it figured out. Not even priests!) is summarized in Jesus' simple teaching, "seek and you will find". And I've learned that if I seek occasions of gratitude, I will find them. And when I find them, life feels better, and the Christian faith is more meaningful. So, I try to set aside some time each week to specifically look for reasons to be grateful: grateful to the people around me, and grateful to God for the blessings I might otherwise overlook.

The Vestry and I are practicing this search for gratitude as a part of our monthly meetings. We set aside a few minutes near the beginning of each meeting to specifically think about reasons we're grateful and people for whom we are grateful. We say the names and the reasons out loud for each other and we record them, because we want to begin sharing this gratitude with all of you.

This is the list from our last meeting:

- For all the people who assisted with Holy Week services and preparing for it
- For Grace Mauk coming back
- For the music on Easter
- For police officers who have been assisting with breakfast incidents
- For Michael Kidney for being involved
- For Heather Meyer, specifically for the Toledo Grows connection and learning about pollinators

Look for more lists like this in Trinity Topics each month after our Vestry meetings. Of course, this is an incomplete list – they always will be. In a parish like Trinity that has so much going on, it takes a lot of people and a lot of passion to make this ministry happen. So, we hope that you'll join us in seeking out these occasions of thanksgiving. If you notice something or someone that deserves our thanks, send me a quick email or text to let me know.

I hope you will find, as I have, the ways that being intentionally thankful enriches our lives every day!

Blessings, Jon+

PLAZA WORK DAYS - MAY 10 & 17



This **Saturday, May 10**, join us at 1pm on the Plaza. We accomplished so much last Saturday in horrible weather conditions! We will be spreading soil and mulch, creating "puddling areas" for Monarch Waystations, and planting.

Next Saturday, May 17 9:30 a.m. we will plant the Children's Garden--Melanie Schell will lead children, their families and anyone who wants to help in planting tomatoes, peppers, purple cabbage, sunflower seeds, herbs, vegetable seeds (peas, lettuce, spinach, radishes, cucumbers, pumpkins), and marigolds. Come be a part of such amazing energy! And if you can only dedicate an hour or so, no worries. We will take you.

TSN LUNCH

Thursday May 15th we will be hosting our monthly vendor lunch for Toledo Streets Newspaper. If you are interested in helping to cook, hang out, or eat, please reach out to George at <u>george@trinitytoledo.org</u> or you can <u>sign up here</u>. Just scroll to the bottom and

sign on up. We will be meeting in My Brother's Place at 9am to cook, and then lunching at 11am.



Trinity Episcopal Church, 316 Adams St., Toledo, OH

a Turbulent Era" With

Author Nico Lang

Tuesday, May 13 at 6pm "American Teenager": A Conversation With Author Nico Lang Trinity is hosting Equality Toledo and Author Nico Lang to discuss their award-winning book, "American Teenager", uplifting the voices of transgender young people across the country. This groundbreaking work follows seven families of trans youth in seven states as they try to navigate a hostile political climate and find joy in a turbulent era. This event is free and we would love to see you!

PRIDE MEETING – MAY 18



PRIDE MEETING: MAY 18 Are you ready to slay? Come help make Pride 2025 a reality at Trinity! It takes a whole village to make Toledo Pride a success, so come show off your true colors after church May 18th.

BROADWAY CONCERT



BROADWAY CONCERT: JUNE 10 @ **7:00 pm** Free admission and open to the public! Mark your calendars for the end of the choir season concert, featuring music from Broadway! The Trinity Choir is busy preparing to sing their faces off. We'll see you there! TUESDAY, JUNE 10 @ 7 PM.

TRINITY GOES TO WASHINGTON!



Parishioners Phill Skeldon, Mark Dubielak, Becky Koskinen (Vestry) and George Benson (Dir of Community Engagement) were in Washington, D.C. this week to meet with Legislative Director for Rep. McGovern, Representative Marcy Kaptur and Senior Aid to Sen. Husted. They discussed concerns for our Queer (specifically trans) siblings, cuts to USAID, concerns for Medicaid, and how we see these effects weekly at our Breakfast At Trinity. Before leaving the nation's capital, they also met with folks from the Episcopal Public Policy Network and the Office of Government Relations to explore how we can partner in a more long-term way. Well done, friends!

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EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE

Anglican Communion secretary-general on the election of Pope Leo XIV

[Anglican Communion News Service] Bishop Anthony Poggo, secretary-general of the Anglican Communion, on May 8 shared a message of encouragement on...

Pope Leo XIV to lead Roman Catholic Church, first American elected to papacy

[Religion News Service] In a shocking vote that caught the Catholic world by surprise, the College of Cardinals elected Robert Francis Prevost, 69,...

North Carolina farmworkers build their own Episcopal church

[Episcopal News Service] An Episcopal congregation that serves seasonal farmworkers in southeast North Carolina has a new church building thanks to...

Episcopal Church's political advocacy team expands public witness with weekly prayers

[Episcopal News Service] To say this year has been a busy one for The Episcopal Church's Washington, D.C.-based Office of Government Relations would...

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DEAR FRIENDS						

Road trips...



Dear friends,

As I write this to you, I am on my way to the annual Diocese of Ohio Clergy Conference (thank goodness for speech-to-text tech!). It's about a 3 hour drive from Toledo to the conference center.

I've always enjoyed long road trips, even as a young child. My family would often take long road trips. My mom and I, in particular, would

regularly drive from Louisiana to Iowa to visit my aunt and her family. I came to treasure those times because they were some of the most important times when mom and I could really get to know each other better. Our relationship would deepen as the miles ran beneath us. Now, as an adult, Michael and I also enjoy taking long road trips. As much as we both love music, we often find ourselves riding along with the radio silenced – just to talk with one another; to spend some quality time together.

Road trips are about building relationships. Certainly, it's about bringing people together from one place to another; but the relationships can also be built on the trip itself as we're riding along. Nowadays, when I'm alone on the road, I often use this as time for intensive prayer. Prayer isn't always with your head bowed, and your eyes closed. A lot of times, prayer isn't much more than deep thoughts. It's about talking to God like you talk to your loved one in the passenger seat next to you. Again, it's about building relationships and about deepening bonds. Our relationship with God needs that as much as any of our physical relationships do. Soon it will be Memorial Day – a day that many people think of as the sort of beginning of summer (even though the summer season is still weeks away). If your summer calendar has you taking a road trip sometime this year, I invite you to turn the radio off for a few minutes and listen to the people around you. If you're fortunate enough to be alone for a while, spend some time deepening your relationship with God. Talk with God just like you'd talk with a dear friend or a treasured loved one. God wants to hear what you have to say. And, if you embrace the silence long enough, you might just hear what God has to say.

Blessings, Jon+



TRINITY PLAZA IS GROWING!











Way to show up, Trinity! In the month of May, we had 52 total volunteers get dirty over the course of three weekends. On behalf of Deacon Meribah and Bruce Mansfield and Heather Meyer, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of you. For those of you that have not been up to the Plaza (ever!) or lately, please do take a few minutes to visit it when you are at Trinity. In fact, visit it every time you are at Trinity! You can access it from the 2nd floor with doors opening from My Brother's Place gathering space. This hard work has been for our community, not only in our parish but downtown. Congrats to our rain garden students for the excellent work in planting two rain gardens complete with two butterfly water stations. For the first time in years, we now have regular visits from birds, butterflies, bees and the occasional urban squirrel.

We are looking for volunteers to help with watering and weeding on a rotating schedule throughout the summer. Whether you have a green thumb or just a willing spirit, your help will make a big difference in keeping our gardens healthy and beautiful. To volunteer, please contact Heather Meyer, Director of Operations at heather@trinitytoledo.org We can accommodate any availability!



You're invited to join Jon and Michael in the first of a series of social events over the next several months as we get to know each other outside the church walls. Come cheer on the Toledo Mud Hens on Wednesday June 11. First pitch is at 7:05pm. All the event and ticket details are in the Sign Up Genius. We can help you sign up before or after worship the next two Sundays too. <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/June11</u>

Deadline is May 28! Play ball!

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY SMALL GROUP

An Invitation to EfM 2025-2026

This year, Donna Steppe and I participated in an <u>Education for Ministry</u> (EfM) small group. As it turns out, we started the year with only half a notion of what we were getting into. We thought that it would be Bible study. It was that and so much more.

EfM is a small group experience that combines intellectual learning with theological reflection and prayer. The goal of the program is to help us folks grow into the Christian faith and grow in their relationship with God and with others. It is a safe space to explore your vocation. The EfM web site describes vocation this way: "It isn't so much about what a person does, but how a person lives with purpose: 'Who am I becoming?' and 'What is my next faithful step?'" The program is open to all seekers, you don't have to be an Episcopalian or a Christian to participate

The EfM program in Toledo is held at St. Michael's in the Hills Episcopal Church in Ottawa Hills. There are a few spaces open in our group for new members, and we would love to have you join us! Donna and I are happy to answer questions about our experience.

To register, contact the Rev. Gayle Catinella (<u>revgayle@lovelearnserve.org</u>), rector at St. Michael's and our EfM mentor as soon as possible. She will be able to provide details such as the cost of the upcoming year and registration details. Note: the registration deadline is usually in June.

For more information, start with the <u>EfM website</u> or email Gayle. <u>https://theology.sewanee.edu/education-for-ministry/</u>



BROADWAY CONCERT: JUNE 10 @ **7:00 pm** Free admission and open to the public! Mark your calendars for the end of the choir season concert, featuring music from Broadway! The Trinity Choir is busy preparing to sing their faces off. We'll see you there! TUESDAY, JUNE 10 @ 7 PM.



Join us on May 27 from 9:30–12pm while we work our Food for Thought (FFT) mobile pantry. Each month FFT sets up in our sanctuary as we provide wrap around services with our community partners. This is a great time to get to know our downtown neighbors as we help them shop. <u>Sign up here.</u> Questions? Contact George Benson at george@trinitytoledo.org

GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS SUNDAY

Gun Violence Awareness Sunday: June 1 Mark your calendar to find something ORANGE to wear to church on June 1 as we recognize this important day. More details to come!

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EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE

Washington bishop, cathedral dean issue joint statement on Israeli embassy staff members' deaths

[Episcopal News Service] Washington Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde and the Very Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith, dean of Washington National Cathedral,...

Supreme Court blocks public funding of religious school, outcome supported by Episcopal leaders

[Episcopal News Service] The U.S. Supreme Court deadlocked, 4-4, on May 22 in the case of a Roman Catholic school seeking to receive public funding,...

Episcopal Church raises alarm at GOP fiscal plan's potential to harm low-income Americans

[Episcopal News Service] The Episcopal Church, through its General Convention resolutions, has long supported government programs that help alleviate...

Wyoming Episcopalians learn real history, reconciliation steps during Wind River pilgrimage

[Episcopal News Service] The Episcopal Church in Wyoming hosted a three-day listening pilgrimage to the Wind River Indian Reservation, which is...

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Wear Orange this Sunday!





Next Friday, June 6 is National Gun Violence Awareness Day and the kick-off of <u>Wear Orange Weekend</u>. Trinity will observe Wear Orange Sunday this Sunday, June 1, because next Sunday, June 8, we'll

celebrate Pentecost. So please wear orange to church this Sunday! Why orange? Because it's the color of safety for hunters, chosen to honor 15-year-old Hadiya Pendelton, who was shot and killed on a playground in Chicago in 2013. Dr. Yolanda Dawn Waller will be our guest preacher. Dawn is a gun violence survivor, and I have learned in doing this work that it must be victim and survivor-centered. The voices that need to be amplified are those closest to the issue. Survivors are the leaders of the movement to reduce gun violence. They need and deserve our support. They welcome us to walk with them as allies. <u>Read about Dawn's background here</u>, and come hear her preach on Sunday!

I became involved in gun violence prevention in Toledo two years ago when I marched in the Old West End Festival parade with Moms Demand Action and met Mike Linehan, a parishioner from Olivet Lutheran Church. Mike and I had a brief conversation about how our two faith communities were wrestling with the issue of gun violence, and exchanged contact information. Later in June, we began to work together to form the Multifaith Coalition to Reduce Gun Violence. We have hosted five public forums on topics including survivor testimonies, legislative advocacy training, safe gun storage, and updates from the City of Toledo's Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE). About 250 people from more than 50 northwest Ohio congregations representing many faith traditions have participated in at least one forum, including an impressive 40 Trinity parishioners. Thank you for your commitment to help reduce gun violence!

Several members of the Multifaith Coalition to Reduce Gun Violence engaged over the past year and a half in MONSE's community-driven process to develop Peace in Motion, the City of Toledo's five-year plan to reduce violence, which was approved by City Council earlier this month. The City's dedicated efforts have reduced homicides, from 65 in 2022 to 37 in 2024. 2024 saw the lowest number of youth (under age 18) homicides since 2019. The City's Save Our Community (SOC) program has built up a caseload of young people who are at high risk of experiencing gun violence. SOC staff provide mediation, de-escalation, and connection to services, opportunities and support to help meet their needs. The Peace in Motion plan contains actionable recommendations, such as the launch of the Healing & Compassion Fund - United Way of Greater Toledo to provide immediate financial support after the unfathomable loss of a loved one from gun violence (application and more detail here). The process to develop the Peace In Motion plan has helped to eliminate "silos" within the community around efforts to address gun violence. We can accomplish far more working together than we can in isolation. Partners like the Multifaith Coalition to Reduce Gun Violence bolster this work and ensure a community-oriented approach to addressing gun violence.

This Sunday, we will remember recent victims of gun violence, and honor the bruised and broken, strong and resilient survivors that are leading the movement to prevent gun violence. Free gun locks will be available for anyone who wants them. <u>Here are many</u> <u>resources</u> to explore for more information on how to reduce gun violence: organizations, safe gun storage, books and more. <u>Please email me</u> if you'd like to receive email updates from the Multifaith Coalition to Reduce Gun Violence. See you Sunday with your orange on!

Peace, Deacon Meribah

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NOON TIME WEDNESDAY SERVICE – HIATUS

Please note that our regular Noontime Wednesday services will be on hiatus during the summer months beginning June 18. We will resume in the fall. Thank you for understanding and we look forward to worshiping with you on Sundays and at all the special events this summer!

BUILDING PARTNERS NEWS



ACT is presenting the area premiere of Blood of the Lamb by acclaimed playwright Arlene Hutton, an urgent and riveting new play exploring the collision of personal autonomy and state control in a post-Roe America.

Set in a stark room at a Texas airport, Blood of the Lamb centers on Nessa, a pregnant woman detained under new reproductive laws. As she faces questioning and legal proceedings—represented not by her own advocate but by an attorney for her unborn fetus—the play unfolds as a chilling, Kafkaesque legal drama. Through sharp dialogue and escalating tension, Hutton examines the profound implications of legislation that prioritizes the rights of the unborn over the autonomy of the living. Blood of the Lamb is directed by Toledo theatre veteran Barbara Barkan and features Monica Hiris and Rin Moran.

Performances will run June 5–8, 2025, in Trinity's Chapel. June 5–7 at 8:00 p.m. and June 8 at 3:00 p.m. Tickets for Thursday, June 5 are \$5.00. Tickets for the remaining performances are \$10.00-\$20.00. Available in advance at www.act419.org or at the door one hour before the curtain time.

WEAR ORANGE VIRTUAL BLOOD DRIVE (JUNE 1-15)

Blood Donors NGGGGG

Did you know?

*GUN SHOT VICTIMS 5 TIMES ARE MORE LIKELY TO NEED TRANSFUSION

*GUN SHOT VICTIMS REQUIRE 10X MORE BLOOD THAN OTHER TRAUMA PATIENTS

JUNE 1ST TO JUNE 15TH

Toledo Moms Demand Action Sponsoring Virtual Blood Drive to help replace blood needed by victims of gun violence

Use this Blood Link to be directed to blood banks near you. Sign up anytime between June 1 and June 15th to participate in our National Gun Violence Awareness Event

This is your blood link https://rcblood.org/3ENOUvo



Gun shot victims are 5 times more likely to need a transfusion. Gun shot victims require 10 times more blood than other trauma victims.

Moms Demand Action is sponsoring a *virtual* blood drive with the American Red Cross to help replace the blood needed by victims of gun violence. How does it work?

1. Use this link to choose a blood bank near you. <u>Blood Bank locations here</u>

- 2. Make an appointment to donate blood between June 1-15.
- 3. Donate blood!

BOOK CLUB



My Friends by Fredrik Backman

"Fredrik Backman's signature charm, humor, and attention to the poignant details of everyday life are on full display in this funny, moving novel. His most heartfelt and personal tale yet, *My Friends* is a stunning testament to the transformative, timeless power of art and friendship." ~ goodreads

Book Club will be taking a breather in June and July but that doesn't mean you can't be reading. Get this one on your summer reading list, and add August 24 at 6:30pm to your calendar. Happy reading!



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EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE

Debate over park plan turns tense during Toms River Town Council meeting's public comments

[Episcopal News Service – Toms River, New Jersey] Christ Episcopal Church's plan to open an overnight shelter on its campus and the mayor's plan to...

Colorado Episcopalians study Sand Creek Massacre's legacy during pilgrimage to historic site

[Episcopal News Service] Episcopalians from the Episcopal Church in Colorado made a pilgrimage to the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site in...

Final members of commission to nominate next archbishop of Canterbury are named [Church of England] The membership of the Canterbury Crown Nominations Commission is now complete with the appointment of representatives from the...

Armenian heritage conference to address consequences of conflict in Nagorno Karabakh [World Council of Churches] An Armenian Heritage Conference opened in Bern, Switzerland, on May 27 to address the consequences of the conflict in...

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