

Trinity Tidings

August 2025

Autumn Harvest Potluck Luncheon



Special Event in September: Save the date! The Parish Family and Guests are invited to attend our potluck luncheon on Sunday, September 21, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service. This event will take place in Garland Hall.

A sign-up form will be placed on the bulletin board in the parish hall for persons to R.S.V.P, list the food items you will bring, and the number of guests who will attend. Please contact Ann Sullivan with any questions.

Sundays in August: Starting Sunday, August 3rd, our worship together will take place in the climate-controlled parish hall at 9:30 a.m. It will be a service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with hymns.

--- *Peace, James+*

Important dates in August:

Sunday Worship Schedule:

9:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. II; in Garland Hall.

Sunday, August 24:

11:30 a.m. – The College Kitchen: Hot Dog Lunch.

+ + +

The Transfiguration of Our Lord: August 6

The Transfiguration is not to be understood only as a spiritual experience of Jesus while at prayer, which three chosen disciples, Peter, James, and John, were permitted to witness. It is one of a series of spiritual manifestations by which God authenticated Jesus as his Son. It is at one with the appearance of the angels at the birth and at his resurrection, and with the descent of the Spirit at Jesus' baptism.

Matthew records the voice from heaven saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (Matthew 17:5). Briefly the veil is drawn aside, and a chosen few are permitted to see Jesus, not only as the human son of Mary, but also as the eternal Son of God. Moses and Elijah witness to Jesus as the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. In Luke's account of the event, they speak of the "exodus" which Jesus is to accomplish at Jerusalem. A cloud, a sign of divine presence, envelops the disciples, and a heavenly voice proclaims Jesus to be the Son of God.

Immediately thereafter, Jesus announces to Peter, James, and John the imminence of his death. As Paul was later to say of Jesus, "Though he was in the form of God, he did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and was born in human likeness. And, being found in human form, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:6-8).

The Feast of the Transfiguration is held in the highest esteem by the Eastern Churches. The figure of the

transfigured Christ is regarded as a foreshadowing of the Risen and Ascended Lord. The festival, however, was only accepted into the Roman calendar on the eve of the Reformation, and for that reason was not originally included in the reformed calendar of the Church of England. Since its inclusion in the American liturgical revision of 1892, it has been taken into most modern Anglican calendars.

--- *Lesser Feasts and Fasts, 2024*; page 320.

+ + +

Episcopal News Service

Council of Nicaea's decisions 1,700 years ago affect today's church.

www.episcopalnewsservice.org

Posted: July 21, 2025

By Melodie Woerman

When some 200 bishops and the hundreds of others who accompanied them arrived at the town of Nicaea in modern-day Turkey in 325, they had before them two tasks: define Jesus' nature in relationship to God and establish a common date when Christians around the world would celebrate Easter.

While the latter task still is part of ongoing discussions, the assembled bishops at the first ecumenical council of the Christian church hammered out a description of Jesus that, 1,700 years later, remains part of the Nicene Creed, a statement of faith that is said on Sundays and other major feast days across The Episcopal Church.

What the bishops did was to define "what we mean when we say God," the Rev. Kara Slade, a theologian who is part of the Episcopal chaplaincy at Princeton University, told Episcopal News Service.

And just as each sport has a governing body that sets the rules, she said the Council of Nicaea established "the language for what we as Christians, ecumenically, mean when we say God, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit." It also is a recitation of "the Good News, of who God is for us."

Events marking the 1,700th anniversary have taken place this year across The Episcopal Church. For

example, on Jan. 19, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City helped kick off events marking the anniversary year with an Evensong service. The then-dean, the Very Rev. Patrick Malloy, told ENS the church "was chartered specifically to focus on Christian unity" and thus was selected for a service during the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

More recently, Slade offered a [lecture](#) on the creed at [St. Paul's Cathedral](#) in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on June 15, part of an ongoing series the cathedral is presenting, with additional lectures later this year. Oklahoma Bishop Poulson Reed also offered his own [reflections](#).

Wisconsin Bishop Matthew Gunter offered a series of [written teachings](#) about the Nicene Creed to his diocese in June.

Back in the fourth century, the Roman Emperor Constantine, who only 12 years earlier had become a Christian, called, paid for and attended the Council of Nicaea. The Rev. [Rebecca Lyman](#), professor emerita of history at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California, told ENS by email that he did this "to ensure the end of Christian quarreling in the Eastern [Roman] Empire and thus pray for the stability of his reign."

The quarrel centered on how the church should described the relationship between Jesus the Son and God the Father, especially considering its inheritance of the Jewish belief in monotheism. Arius, a presbyter in Alexandria, publicly preached that God created Jesus, while stating that he was of a different nature than any other part of creation. Many others, who objected to his description of Jesus, considered Arius a heretic.

Lyman, in [entries she wrote](#) about the Council of Nicaea for the St. Andrews Encyclopedia of Theology, noted, "After weeks of negotiation, the council succeeded in producing a common theological statement to bring unity – or at least stabilize conflict – among the bishops."

That statement, which forms much of today's Nicene Creed, described Jesus as "the Son of God, begotten from the Father, only begotten, that Is from the substance of the Father; God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father..."

But, as Lyman wrote to ENS, “It took 50 years and several theological moves to have the creed (with slight modifications) accepted by the Eastern and Western church.”

What the bishops didn’t say much about was the Holy Spirit, since at that time it wasn’t as debated as the nature of Jesus. Language about the Spirit and its co-divinity with the Father and Son was added to the creed by the second ecumenical council in 381, the Council of Constantinople. It sometimes now is referred to as the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed.

What resulted in the fourth century from these two councils, Lyman said, was “the painful construction of the doctrine of the Trinity.”

In his “Commentary on the American Prayer Book,” the late Rev. Marion Hatchett said the first time the Nicene Creed was used in connection with the Eucharist likely was in the late fifth or early sixth century.

In the sixth century, what would become a rift between the Eastern church based in Constantinople, and the Western church based in Rome, took place with the insertion of a statement about the Holy Spirit into the creed by the Council of Toledo, Spain, in 589. Until then, the creed stated that the Holy Spirit “proceeds from the Father.” The council inserted “and the Son” after the word “Father,” an addition known today as the [filioque clause](#). This insertion was accepted by the Western but not the Eastern church, which does not recognize it.

The council did establish a single date for Easter – the first Sunday after the full moon following the spring equinox. But that unanimity was in doubt after 1582, when Pope Gregory XIII created a new calendar, called the [Gregorian calendar](#) in his own honor, to adjust the Julian calendar to correct how it counted the length of a year. Western churches adopted this calculation, but many Eastern churches kept to the old Julian calculation, which can result in Easter varying between the two dates by as much as five weeks.

The impact of the Nicene Creed today

Slade said that the creed remains important for Episcopalians because “it gets right to the heart of what we’re doing as Christians. It’s the summary of the Christian faith.”

She is aware that for many, reciting the Nicene Creed may not hold their full attention. “Maybe you’re still thinking about the sermon” that comes right before it. “Maybe you’re thinking ahead to the Eucharist or to who you have to say hello to at the Peace.”

But paraphrasing the theologian Augustine, she said, “When you say your creed, render it back to God.” Doing that gives worshipers a chance to reaffirm it as “a statement of Good News” and an acknowledgement of who God is.

The Rev. Margaret Rose, The Episcopal Church’s ecumenical and interreligious deputy to the presiding bishop, told ENS that the Nicene Creed was a topic of conversation at the June meeting of the [World Council of Churches Central Committee](#), of which she is a member, in Johannesburg, South Africa.

One of the things they discussed was who wasn’t at the Council of Nicaea. “There were no women,” Rose noted, even though Paul in Galatians 3:28 “said in Christ, ‘there is neither male nor female.’”

The creed remains important to Christians today, Rose said, “because it was about the unity of the church.” For her, in defining the nature of God as a relationship between Father, Son and Holy Spirit, it shows “the Trinity as community and is a model for who we are together.”

When The Episcopal Church was establishing how it would engage in relationships with other churches, the House of Bishops in 1886 developed a four-fold framework for ecumenical discussion, with one of the elements being acceptance of “the Nicene Creed as the rule of faith.” When that framework was reaffirmed by the Lambeth Conference of 1888, it became known as the [Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral](#).

This has been the basis of full-communion relationships between The Episcopal Church and eight partner churches, including the latest, with the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria](#), which was signed on June 7.

The question of one Easter date for all Christians is again under discussion, in part because the dates for Eastern and Western Christians happened to coincide [in 2017 and in 2025](#)). They will again in 2028, 2031 and 2034.

Earlier this year, the late Pope Francis [reaffirmed the Roman Catholic Church's willingness](#) to accept a proposal for a common Easter date for all Christians. In 1988, the Lambeth Conference attempted to address the centuries of disunity caused by the filioque clause when it [recommended](#) to provinces of the Anglican Communion omit the clause in future liturgical revisions that include the Nicene Creed.

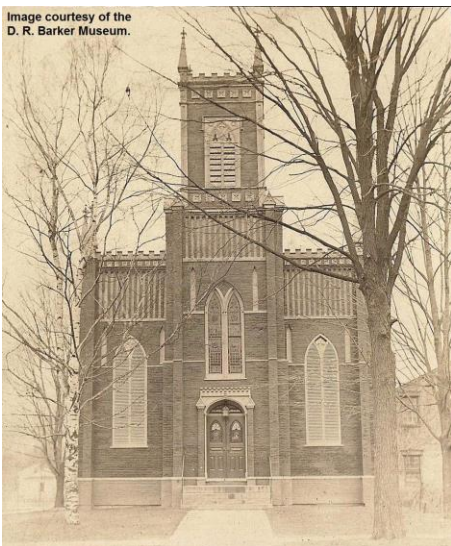
The Episcopal Church's 1994 General Convention adopted a [resolution](#) to omit that the clause "at the next revision of the Book of Common Prayer." But recent actions by General Convention make such a revision unlikely in the near future.

In 2018, General Convention [authorized](#) creation of the Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision, and the 2022 convention [directed](#) the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music "to continue the work of liturgical and Prayer Book revision."

The most recent General Convention in 2024 adopted a constitutional change that [defines the Book of Common Prayer](#) to include authorized liturgical materials that aren't printed in prayer books in use.

The Book of Common Prayer has not undergone a full-scale revision since 1979. That process, to revise the 1928 version, [began in 1967](#).

A variety of 1,700th anniversary resources are available from the [World Council of Churches](#), the [Church of England](#) and the [Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America](#).



+ + +

Trinity Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes June 17, 2025 As approved at the July Meeting

Present: Sally Ludlum, Warden; Jake Wilkins; Jenn Wilkins; Ann Sullivan; Cathy Berner; Melisa Eichmann; Virginia Becker, Treasurer; The Reverend James Clement, Rector.

Excused:

Call to Order: Father Clement called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m., with an opening prayer.

Meeting Agenda: Agenda approved with a motion made by Cathy Berner, seconded by Melisa Eichmann.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Jake Wilkins, seconded by Ann Sullivan to approve the May 20, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Finance / Building and Grounds:

Finance: Report prepared by Ginny Becker and presented. Jake Wilkins made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Sally Ludlum. Motion carried.

- **General Fund:** Along with the normal monthly expenses, a donation was made to the Fredonia VFD, as per vestry direction.
- **Building Fund:** On the completion of the boiler work, an invoice from Gugino Plumbing, Heating & AC for the remaining balance of \$8,862 was received. This was paid in person on June 12th. The total cost of the work was \$16,862.
- **Memorial Fund:** Current balance: \$3,172.28.
- **Music Fund:** Current balance: \$304.56.
- **Snowden Lane Partners:** The total value of both the Master and Sub accounts increased in May.

Buildings & Ground: Reported by Father Clement.

- The rebuilding of the furnace/boilers is completed, along with a redirection of the flue stack.

- After this work was done, the boiler was inspected by both the insurance company and by NYS.
- Amherst Pest made their second visit for this season. The parish kitchen was sprayed as well.
- Cathy Berner has volunteered to weed and mulch the flower beds in front of the church.

Congregational Ministries:

Flower Guild:

- Since the last meeting, two deposits were made totaling \$90; an invoice for the florist was paid for \$120. The current balance is \$105.07.

TECW:

- An information/sign-up sheet regarding the Episcopal Cottage Tea at Chautauqua Institution is available on the bulletin board at the church.

Rector's Report:

- The Partnership dioceses of WNY and NWP is expected to officially end at the start of next month. More information will be given as we close the month of June. Anyone with specific questions regarding the partnership of this process are welcome to reach out to Fr. Clement.
- Expenses associated with the parish website have been paid for the upcoming year (webhosting, etc.) by way of a donation to the parish.

Old Business:

New Business:

- Annual Parish Audit: Jenn Wilkins made a motion, seconded by Jake Wilkins to appointment the committee for the 2024 financial audit for Trinity Episcopal Church, which will take place on Saturday, June 21st at 9:30 a.m. The following persons are appointed to this committee are: Ann Sullivan, Peggy Tofil, Joanne Green. This motion was approved.
- Lake Shore Bank: On behalf of the parish, Ginny Becker voted for Lake Shore Savings elections and banking updates, which were received by mail.
- Emergency Plan of Action: Vestry discussed recent matters occurring at this present time, particularly incidents at places of worship.

Sally Ludlum recommended creating an action plan, if a situation arises while we are on the church property. Jenn Wilkins stated that vestry take on this role, as there are typically at least one or two persons available. Jake Wilkins recommended creating a sample Incident Command Protocol. After further conversation, he will contact the police department to schedule a training session in September.

- Vestry set the Sunday Counters schedule for the month of July.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m. with a motion made by Jake Wilkins, seconded by Cathy. Carried. Vestry concluded its time together with prayer. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Jennifer Wilkins

+ + +

Parish Notes



**Join us
on the front lawn at the church
for a free Hot Dog Lunch
during Fredonia Farm Fest!**

**Sunday, August 24,
11:30 a.m. until 2-3:00 p.m.
(or until the food is gone!)**

Chancel Choir



September is just around the corner and we will continue our program of inviting four SUNY students to join with us for the parish choir. They will work with our organist, Don Fellows. We enjoyed having the choristers with us these past two years and we anticipate welcoming the news students soon!

As we have done in the past, the congregation will need to raise donations for the Music Fund - \$1,500 for each semester. This amount will enable the students to be present not only on Sundays, but also at various times, such as Christmas, Holy Week and Easter. If you wish to make a donation, please contact the parish treasurer, Ginny Becker.

+ + +

Lectionary Readings in August:

www.lectionarypage.net

Sunday, August 3

The Transfiguration

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalms 99:5-9

2 Peter 1:13-21

Luke 9:28-36

Sunday, August 10

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 14

Genesis 15:1-6

Psalms 33:12-22

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Luke 12:32-40

Sunday, August 17

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 15

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Psalms 82

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Luke 12:49-56

Sunday, August 24

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 16

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Psalms 103:1-8

Hebrews 12:18-29

Luke 13:10-17

Sunday, August 31

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 17

Proverbs 25:6-7

Psalms 112

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

+ + +

Birthdays in August

- 7 Alberto Rey
- 15 Mary Beth Liener Chin
- 16 Jeanette Adamczak
- 21 Doreen Gould
- 25 Russell Kyte
- 29 Ron Sercu
- 30 Sharon Wallace

Wedding Anniversaries in August

- 3 Cathy and John Berner
- 17 Lisa and Dominic Schultz
- 22 Ron and Diane Sercu

In Memoriam

- 8 Anita Day
- 17 Victor Jonus
- 18 Rosalie Williams
- 30 Raymond Wallace

Trinity Tidings

Trinity Episcopal Church

11 Day Street; P.O. Box 467

Fredonia, NY 14063

Office: 716-679-7901

Website: www.trinitychurchwny.org

Parish Clergy and Staff

The Revd. James Clement, Rector

Email: rector@trinitychurchwny.org

Donald Fellows, Organist

Sara Jagoda, Custodian

The Vestry of the Parish

Sally Ludlum, Warden

Jenn Wilkins, Clerk

Ann Sullivan

Cathy Berner

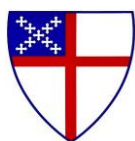
Jake Wilkins

Melisa Eichmann

Virginia Becker, Treasurer

Trinity Episcopal Church
11 Day Street; P.O. Box 467
Fredonia, New York 14063

Volume 8, Issue 8 — August 2025



Trinity Tidings



The newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

*“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”
Ephesians 1:2*