



Trinity Tidings

December 2025



We begin a new Church Year on the First Sunday of Advent (Nov. 30) with Lectionary Year A. The Gospel of Matthew will be the primary gospel message we will experience this coming year.

Derived from the Latin word “to come to”, Advent is a time for our preparation, as well as our anticipation. We are to be “on watch” as we set our hearts and actions on Christ’s return, while also celebrating the event of that first appearing to humanity at Christmas – the event of the Incarnation.

The use of the liturgical color Sarum blue (or violet) during this season reminds us that this “watch” takes place during a period of repentance, forgiveness, and hope so as to clean house spiritually and prepare to receive Christ as our guest.

As we light each candle of the Advent wreath during the coming Sunday weeks, may we open ourselves up to receive the Spirit of God. May we direct our minds and hearts, with joyous expectation, to increase awareness of the meaning of Christmas, and anticipate that time when Christ will usher in the life of the world to come.

--- Peace, James+



Holiday Decorating

All are invited to gather for the decorating of the church for the Christmas season on Sunday, December 14, immediately following the 10:30 service!

Please note:

The deadline to order potted poinsettias is Tuesday, December 2. They are \$10 each.

Important dates in December

Sundays during December:

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. I (Dec. 7 and 21);
10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. II.

Decorating of the Church:

Sunday, Dec. 14, after the 10:30 service.

Wednesday, Dec. 24:

Eve of the Nativity: Christmas Eve
5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. II.

TECW Holiday Coffee:

Saturday, Dec. 6, at 9:45 a.m.

Vestry Meeting:

Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 5:30 p.m.

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Trinity Episcopal Church

Vestry Minutes

October 21, 2025

As approved at the November Meeting

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

Excused:

Call to Order: Father Clement called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m., with an opening prayer.

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

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Ann Sullivan, seconded by Sally Ludlum to approve the September 16, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Finance / Building and Grounds:

Finance: Written report prepared by Ginny Becker and presented. Jenn Wilkins made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Melissa Eichmann. Motion carried. (See attached report).

- **General Fund:** All monthly expenses were paid for September including Amherst Exterminators (3rd application), Forward Movement, and the Village of Fredonia water/sewer bill.
- **Building Fund:** This account was changed to a regular non-profit account with no interest and no minimum balance. The maintenance fee of \$12 from last month was reversed. The balance at the end of September was \$12,927.96.
- **Memorial Fund:** Current balance: \$3,172.28.
- **Music Fund:** Current balance: \$1,243.36.
- **Snowden Lane Partners:** As of the end of September, investment fund was up 1.69% for the month and 12.63% for the year. A \$10,000 transfer was made in September into the general fund for expenses. During the course of the past nine months, \$40,000 has been used in operational expenses with \$30,000 being

anticipated. Once the latest repairs are completed, \$26,731 will have been used for capital improvement, which include the rebuilding of the boiler furnace, the new HVAC and electrical work for Garland Hall and removal of converter.

- **College Kitchen:** The current balance is \$3,940.81.

Buildings & Ground: Reported by Father Clement.

- The new HVAC system was installed on the roof of the parish hall; the old system was removed. Muck electric will now connect and rewire for this new system, as well as remove the converter and its components located downstairs in the building. This work will take place after the upcoming rummage sale.
- It was reported that there is no water running in the men's room in the basement. There is not hot water there in general. This will be checked out to confirm the status.
- Hillside Painting completed the staining and repair work on the front doors of the church.

Congregational Ministries:

Flower Guild:

- Prior account balance: \$165.07. A deposit of \$160 was recently made to make the current balance at \$325.07.
- The parish will decorate the church for the Christmas season on Sunday, December 14. A sign-up form will be posted on the bulletin board in Garland Hall. The deadline to reserve poinsettias and arrangements will be Tuesday, Dec. 2. Flowers will be ordered that week. Melisa Eichmann will be unavailable to coordinate the decorating this year. She is asking help from other persons during this season.

TECW: The upcoming rummage sale will be held on Friday, Oct. 24, 9:00 am-3:00 pm and Saturday, Oct. 25, 9:00 am-12:00 pm.

Rector's Report:

- A big thank you to everyone who participated in the Autumn Harvest Luncheon.
- The parish family mourns the recent death of longtime parishioner, Audrey Parker. We also give thanks for the many decades of dedication she had as a Sunday School teacher with this parish. The funeral will be held on All Saints' Day, November 1.
- A quartet associated with SUNY is interested in holding a recital in December.

- Fr. Clement will not be present on Sunday, November 23. A service of Morning Prayer, with hymns is scheduled for that day.
- All are invited to attend Jonah Albert's senior recital, which is scheduled for Sunday, November 2 at SUNY Fredonia in Rosch Recital Hall.

Old Business

- The former assistant treasurer's name has been removed from all accounts and paperwork associated with the parish.

New Business

- A draft document of revised and updated parish bylaws was presented to vestry by the By-Laws Committee. Leading up to the November meeting, vestry will now review and discuss this document, in addition to providing feedback. Vestry will vote on whether to adopt the final draft at its next meeting. Once approved, the document will be presented for ratification at the annual meeting in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39p.m. with a motion made by Jake Wilkins, seconded by Ann Sullivan. Carried. Vestry concluded its time together with prayer. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Jennifer Wilkins.

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Parish Notes

A Message from the Parish Treasurer

Parish Family,
Thank you to all who have responded to the current stewardship campaign. The Vestry is preparing the 2026 budget, and your pledge commitments assist us in planning. If you haven't had the opportunity to make a pledge, it's not too late. Pledge cards are available in the parish hall and the narthex, or from the treasurer.

Have a Safe and Healthy Season of Advent!
Ginny Becker

Annual Parish Meeting

The annual parish meeting will take place next month immediately following our 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship service. More information will be provided in the January newsletter.

Committee reports are due in to the office by Sunday, Jan. 11. Thank You!

WNY Deacons' Challenge

As many of you are aware, the deacons of our diocese presented a challenge to every congregation during the month of November. This challenge was set for the purpose of helping the unhoused population in the City of Buffalo. Trinity accepted this challenge and raised funds in order to purchase sub-zero sleeping bags.

A big Thank You to everyone who donated. Our congregation raised \$750 dollars. This enables the cathedral to purchase 40 sleeping bags, in addition to an extra donation for the overall project.

–JMC+

Sonos Quartet Recital **Save the Date!**

On December 14th, 7:00pm the Sonos Quartet will perform at the Trinity Episcopal Church, 11 Day Street, Fredonia. The quartet will play works by Bach, Carl Anton Wirth, William Grant Still, and more.

The Sonos Quartet is a student saxophone quartet based out of SUNY Fredonia that strives for sonic mastery, and to provide audiences with a unique listening experience.

The group is comprised by Ian Leonard (Soprano Saxophone – Kennesaw, GA), Sophia Arcuri (Alto Saxophone – Syracuse, NY), Matthew Lasher (Tenor Saxophone – Smithtown, NY), and Matthew Schnaufer (Baritone Saxophone – Salamanca, NY).

This event is free to the public, and all are welcome.

TECW

HUGE THANK YOU
TO THE TRINITY CHURCH FAMILY

THANK YOU one and all for your sharing your gifts
with those in need.

In October **we donated 352 pairs of socks** to
the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation.
WOW!

And, in November between the monetary donations
from you and the Women along with the individual
items dropped off at the church we took the
following to the Rural Ministry for their
Thanksgiving meals. It was heartwarming to learn
that with our donation they were going to be able to
meet the number of meals promised. Thank you
thank you!

We donated
27 frozen turkeys 11-14 lbs
12 tins yams
68 tins fruit
38 tins veggies
28 tins cranberry
12 boxes stuffing
24 gravy
7 complete pumpkin pie (crust, filling, milk)
1 apple pie (crust 2 cans filling)
3 graham cracker crusts with pudding fillings
2 turkey broth
2 box dried potato
3 bags -5 lb potatoes
3 bags 2 lb carrots
4 pkgs biscuit mix

Any food items donated that didn't match the list
were taken to the Fredonia Food pantry.
You Are Incredible

December TECW meeting Saturday, December
6, a 9:30 quick meeting followed by our annual
Advent coffee at 9:45. *All women of the church* are
invited whether you are active in the TECW or not.
Please put this on your calendar and join us for some
women to women fellowship, coffee/tea and a
yummy munchie.

Parish Register

Burial

Audrey B. Parker
November 1, 2025

Ronald Veklotz
November 4, 2025

Birthdays in December

15 Laurie Weatherlow
15 Tyler Roberts
20 Jeff Kennedy
24 Carol Johnson
27 Bill Roberts
30 Marilyn Maytum

Wedding Anniversaries

(None)

In Memoriam

6 Clara Wallace
19 Clint Kennedy
24 Alfred, Nellie, and Audrey Turner

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Trinity Episcopal Church

11 Day Street; P.O. Box 467
Fredonia, NY 14063
www.trinitychurchwny.org

Parish Clergy and Staff

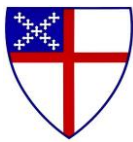
The Revd. James Clement, Rector
rector@trinitychurchwny.org
Donald Fellows, Organist
Sara Jagoda, Custodian

The Vestry of the Parish

Sally Ludlum, Warden
Jake Wilkins
Melisa Eichmann
Jenn Wilkins
Ann Sullivan
Cathy Berner
Virginia Becker, Treasurer

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

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The newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

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