



# Trinity Tidings

February 2026

## Letter to the Parish

*Printed below is a portion of the text from my letter to the congregation, as presented at our recent Annual Meeting.*

January 19, 2026

Dear Friends,

Thank you for another year of our common life together in worship and fellowship. As the oldest Episcopal congregation in Chautauqua County, we continue a tradition of being present in our community. The various reports listed in this meeting booklet articulate the actions we take to make a difference in the lives of others.

On behalf of the congregation, I offer our appreciation to Sally Ludlum and Jenn Wilkins for their service on vestry, as their terms now end. And to Ginny Becker as parish treasurer. Her work and dedication with the finances of the parish have been exceptional. I also offer my gratitude to Don Fellows, our organist. His musical talent uplifts us during our worship and he continues to provide insight and support for the Chancel Choir.

Our congregation continues to look and move forward, even when times seem uncertain. Within the Diocese, we will soon commence a search for a Bishop Diocesan. During the annual meeting, we will ratify updated parish bylaws. One thing is certain; our life of faith confirms that there is no need to be anxious about matters of life. God is present with us at all times.

As we move forward in hope: May we increase in the knowledge and the love of God; be ever thankful for those who support our parish and its mission; and continue to welcome all who seek to discover that expression of love and purpose that God has for each one of us.

From the Register of Church Services and the Parish Register:

Transfer out: Sallie Pullano.

Seventy-six (76) public Sunday services were held last year. This total includes fifty (50) occasions of Holy Communion and twenty-six (26) occasions of the Daily Office. Six (6) public services of Holy Communion were held on weekdays. One thousand-one hundred and twenty-seven (1,127) persons received the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Other Offices and Private services occurred on fourteen (14) occasions, which include the following:

Holy Communion: 7

Holy Unction: 3

Ministration at the Time of Death: 1

Burial of the Dead: 3 – Audrey Parker; Ronald Veklotz;  
The Rev. Otis Hovencamp.

Faithfully,  
(The Revd.) James Clement  
23<sup>rd</sup> Rector.

### ***Important dates in February:***

**Sundays:** 8:00 a.m. – H. E., Rt. I ([Feb. 1 & 15](#));  
10:30 a.m. – H. E., Rt. II.

**TECW Meeting:** Saturday, Feb. 8, at 9:30 a.m.

**Epiphany Tea:** Sunday, Feb. 1, at 2:00 p.m.

**Vestry Meeting:** Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 5:30 p.m.

**Ash Wednesday:** 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

**Lenten Supper & Program:** Feb. 25 – March 18.

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## **Episcopal News Service**

**From Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe:  
Death and despair do not  
have the last word.**

[www.episcopalnewsservice.org](http://www.episcopalnewsservice.org)

Posted: January 26, 2026

Dear people of God in The Episcopal Church:  
Like Jesus, we live in frightening times. His earthly ministry began, as we heard [in today's Gospel reading](#), when John the Baptist was imprisoned by authorities who wanted to silence his preaching and prophesying.

Jesus knew what happens when earthly powers persuade human beings to fear one another, regard one another as strangers, and believe that there is not enough to go around. In Jesus' time, the power of these divisions motivated John's beheading and Jesus' own death on the cross at the hands of Roman authorities.

In our time, the deadly power of those divisions is on display on the streets of Minneapolis, in other places across the United States, and in other countries around the world. As has too often been the case throughout history, the most vulnerable among us are bearing the burden, shouldering the greatest share of risk and loss, and enduring the violation of their very humanity.

But we do not grieve without hope. The Christian story is full of people who lived in frightening and brutal times, and who followed Jesus' call [that we](#)

[heard in church today](#). His proclamation turns us away from the fear born of sin and death and toward the kingdom of God, toward Christ's ministry of justice, reconciliation, and love. "From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view," the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth (2 Corinthians 5:16), exhorting them to reject the divisions of their time in favor of being ambassadors for Christ.

This is God's call to The Episcopal Church now, and it is not an easy one. In the United States, we no longer live in a time when we can expect to practice our faith without risk, and we are confronting what vulnerable communities of faith have experienced for generations.

Our right to worship freely as one church, committed to the dignity of every human being, has been curtailed by the fear that too many immigrant Christians face when they leave their homes. Peaceful protests, a right long enshrined in the Constitution, are now made deadly. Carrying out the simple commands of Jesus—feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, visiting prisoners, making peace—now involves risks for the church and grave danger for those we serve.

As Christians, we must acknowledge that this chaos and division is not of God, and we must commit ourselves to paying whatever price our witness requires of us.

In the coming years, our church will continue to be tested in every conceivable way as we insist that death and despair do not have the last word, and as we stand with immigrants and the most vulnerable among us who reside at the heart of God.

We will be required to hold fast to God's promise to make all things new, because our call to follow God's law surpasses any earthly power or principality that might seek to silence our witness.

To those of you who are in the center of the storm, please know that I am praying for you as you embody the love of Christ in your ministries and communities. To those of you who are watching with concern and fear, I ask you to pray for those who have died in protests and detention, for those who witnessed their deaths, and for everyone who bears authority and responsibility in this moment, that they may exercise wisdom, restraint, and courage.

Pray too, especially in the days to come, for the witness of our church in these times and for a hedge of protection around all the beloved children of God who live in fear this day.

The Most Rev. Sean Rowe  
Presiding Bishop  
The Episcopal Church

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## Trinity Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes

December 16, 2025

**As approved at the January 2026 meeting**

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

**Excused:** Melisa Eichmann.

**Call to Order:** Father Clement called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m., with an opening prayer.

**Meeting Agenda:** Agenda approved with a motion made by Jake Wilkins, seconded by Sally Ludlum.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Cathy Berner, seconded by Ann Sullivan to approve the November 18, 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 Jake Wilkins. Motion carried. See attached report.

- **General Fund:** All monthly expenses were paid during the month of November. The first quarterly payment to Church Insurance was made.
- **Building Fund:** Muck Electric will return in the near future to remove the obsolete electric converter; the remaining balance will be paid.
- **Music Fund:** Donations are encouraged. The current balance will carry us through the first part of the year.

- **Estimated 2026 Operating Budget:** A current expense draft was presented to vestry.

### **Buildings & Ground:** Reported by Father Clement.

- The timer for the lighting system in front of the church building was repaired.
- Allen Fire conducted its annual fire equipment inspection.
- Doyle conducted its annual fire system and alarm inspection.
- The Village of Fredonia conducted its annual building inspection, and approved.
- Heritage Organ is scheduled to tune the organ before the Christmas season.
- Toner cartridges for the office printer were recently replaced.
- A donation of salt for the snow melt was received today.
- Vacanti Electric recently upgraded several more lights in Garland Hall to LED lighting.
- The new five-ton HVAC system for the parish hall seems to be working great.

### **Congregational Ministries:**

#### **Flower Guild:**

- Poinsettias were received for the decorating of the church. Christmas floral arrangements will be picked up a few days prior to the Christmas Eve service.

#### **TECW:**

- A donation in the amount of \$300 to Honduras Health Horizon for their scheduled medical mission trip in January 2026.

### **Rector's Report:**

- The Christmas Eve service will take place on Wednesday, December 24, at 5:00 p.m.
- Thank you to everyone who help decorate the church interior on Sunday, December 14. Everything looks wonderful and festive!
- The Sonos saxophone quartet held a recital at the church on Sunday, December 14, at 7:00 p.m. The performance was well attended.
- An opportunity to connect College Kitchen initiatives is being considered for affiliation with student performance groups or potentially a student-hosted group.
- The parish annual meeting will take place on Sunday, January 25, 2026 immediately

following the 10:30 a.m. service. A potluck luncheon will be held as well. Committee reports should be submitted to office by Wednesday, January 14.

### Old Business

- None.

### New Business

#### Vestry candidates:

- The nominating committee and vestry moved forward two candidates for election to vestry at the annual meeting: Janeil Rey and Ginny Becker. Melisa Eichmann will be presented to serve as Senior Warden; Jake Wilkins as Junior Warden.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m. with a motion made by Jenn Wilkins, seconded by Ann Sullivan. Carried. Vestry concluded its time together with prayer. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Jennifer Wilkins.

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## Parish Notes

We congratulate  
Ginny Becker and Janeil Rey  
on their election to serve a term of  
three years on vestry!

Please keep them and the vestry in your prayers  
for the work and mission of this parish church.



The Day by Day daily devotional booklets (regular and large print editions) for the months of February through April are now available at each entrance into the church building. Pick up your copy today!

## **A Note from the Treasurer**

Thank you all for honoring your pledges in 2025! Year-end giving statements were mailed in early January along with confirmations for 2026 pledges. If you did not receive your statement, feel free to contact me. If you have not made a pledge for this year and would like to, it is not too late. Pledge cards are available at the church office.

In appreciation,  
Ginny Becker



**The Forty Days of Lent:** We will soon enter this penitent period of time to offer ourselves into a way of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

This season provides us the opportunity to set aside time to strengthen our spiritual discipline and personal discernment with our relationship with God. May we discover the gift of God's Grace, which is freely offered to each one of us.

I invite everyone to begin an observance of a holy Lent by attending one of the Ash Wednesday services at 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. The liturgy for Sunday services during Lent will be Holy Eucharist, Rite One. Peace, JMC+

## The Kitchen Crew



A new sign-up form to host Sunday coffee hour has been posted in Garland Hall. Donations of coffee and food items (homemade or store bought) are always welcome. **Thank You** to everyone for their participation in this important time of fellowship after our 10:30 service!





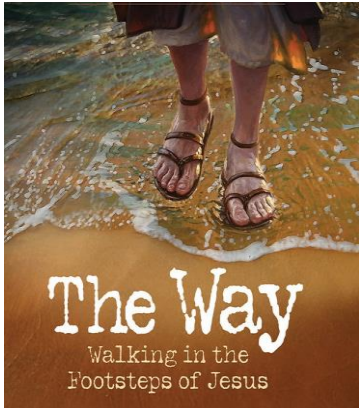
## **Ash Wednesday** **February 18**

**10:00 a.m.** – Holy Eucharist,  
Rite II; Imposition of Ashes  
(a said service).

**5:30 p.m.** – Holy Eucharist,  
Rite II; Imposition of Ashes.

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## **Lenten Program and Supper:** **Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.,** **February 25 – March 18**



Everyone is invited to join the rector for a Lenten study and supper based on Adam Hamilton's book, The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus.

This DVD and conversation series will take place on four Wednesday evenings during the season of Lent, beginning February 25.

Hamilton will take us through a journey of the Holy Land as he explores the life and ministry of Jesus. Using video shots on location, we will visit places such as the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized and the wilderness where he was tempted. We also visit Capernaum, where Jesus healed the sick, and ascend the mountain where he gave his most famous sermon. We continue across the Sea of Galilee, where he calmed the wind and waves, and then to Jerusalem, where Jesus spent his final days.

The first supper will be a Mediterranean diet meal, as we gather to apply this course take on our own walk of faith. We will gather together for this four-week series on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 in Garland Hall.

### The Study Sessions:

February 25: *Baptism and Temptation;*  
*The Healing Ministry.*

March 4: *Proclaiming the Kingdom;*  
*Calming the Storm.*

March 11: *Sinners, Outcasts, and the Poor.*

March 18: *The Final Week.*

## **TECW**

**TECW meeting on**  
**Saturday, February 8, 2026, 9:30 a.m.**  
**in Garland Hall.**

### **EPIPHANY TEA**

Mark Your Calendars!

**February 1, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.**  
**in Garland Hall**

TECW 93rd annual Epiphany Tea will be celebrated with guest speaker Patrick Stokes.

Mr. Stokes is a long time Fredonia resident and has volunteered and lead several missions to war torn Ukraine. He will be speaking about his involvement and experiences and sharing his photos (he is a free-lance photographer) and artifacts. Please join us for this informative afternoon.

Following the talk and Q and A we will be serving tea/coffee/hot cider along with Epiphany Cake, mincemeat bars and other yummys. A free will offering will be taken and any monies collected will be given to the speaker for future volunteer efforts. This event is open to all in the Parish and their friends and neighbors.

### **Final Call for 2025 Christmas Stocking** **Savings project money.**

Anyone who has been saving quarters during 2025 in their special little container please return what every you have by the February meeting. If you've followed the plan you should have about 19.50 collected. If you'd rather not drag in all those coins, you can substitute bills. Thank you for taking part in this simple project. And, if you don't have a container at home pick one up from the basket by the church front door or on the credenza in Garland Hall.

--- Doreen Gould

## **TECW (Continued)**

### **Memorial for Audrey Parker**

At the TECW January meeting it was decided to make a donation in Audrey's name to the Children's Love Fund, headquartered in Mayville.

This fund is under the Northern Chautauqua Community Fund umbrella. Audrey devoted her life to the children in Trinity until she was well in her 80's and as this is a local organization, which strives to help children dealing with long term health issues, we felt this was most appropriate.

We also decided to open up donating in Audrey's memory to the rest of her Parish family. If you would like to add a donation to the TECW's please make your check out to TECW with Audrey Parker memorial in the memo line. Please do this as soon as possible.

Please put checks or money in an envelope to TECW and leave in the offering plate or mail to the church.

## **Birthdays in February**

- 3 Sue Torrance
- 6 Victoria Jakiela
- 12 Aaron Levy
- 14 Shirley Coon
- 20 Meghann Hudson
- 22 Jillian (Berner) Bentley
- 23 Grayson Adamczak
- 23 Jakub Adamczak
- 24 Allison Hadsell
- 26 Philip Tappan
- 26 Jared Cooper

## **Wedding Anniversaries**

(None)

## **In Memoriam**

- 2 Scott Albaugh
- 3 Ruth Hackman
- 4 Dorothy Schaufler
- 16 Milton Fenner
- 17 Catherine Gawron
- 18 John Everett III
- 19 Anne Cassidy
- 22 Laura Foster

### Trinity Tidings

#### **Trinity Episcopal Church**

11 Day Street; P.O. Box 467

Fredonia, NY 14063

Office: 716-679-7901

Website: [www.trinitychurchwny.org](http://www.trinitychurchwny.org)

#### **Parish Clergy and Staff**

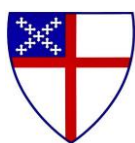
The Revd. James Clement, Rector

Donald Fellows, Organist

Sara Jagoda, Custodian

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

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# *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*