



Trinity Tidings

May 2026

Happy Easter! Christ is risen!



Happy Easter! The congregation who gathered on Easter Day had a joyous and celebratory worship service. Many thanks to everyone who helped make that possible.

These fifty days of Eastertide place us in a position of remembrance and of offering our gratitude for what God has done for all humanity and for all time. First, we have confirmation that God does act in the world and among us; second, all barriers that once separated us from God, including mortal death, are removed. Indeed, such action is something we celebrate not only during this season, but on every single day of life!

May everyone have a joyous Eastertide. *Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!*
--- Peace, James+

Important dates in May:

Sundays, May 3 and 17: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sundays, May 10, 24, 31: 10:30 a.m. only.

TECW Meeting: Saturday, May 2, at 9:30 a.m.

Special Coffee Hour: Sunday, May 10.

Vestry Meeting: Tuesday, May 19, at 5:30 p.m.

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WNY Diocesan News

A Letter from the Standing Committee

Published: April 17, 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

Over the past several weeks, the Standing Committee has been in careful, candid conversation with members of the Search Committee, the Transition Committee, our consultants, and diocesan leadership about the current state of our bishop search process. These conversations have been thoughtful, honest, and rooted in a shared desire to move forward faithfully.

As many of you are aware—and as we have been discussing internally for some time—the search process has not been as smooth or as well-coordinated as we would have hoped. There are real

reasons for this. The structure required by our diocesan canons creates a level of complexity that can be difficult to navigate and the timeline we initially set was somewhat aggressive. At the same time, we are living into a diocesan reality still shaped by the attempted partnership with Northwestern Pennsylvania and its dissolution. In many ways, we are undertaking this search while also rebuilding the systems, relationships, and shared identity that would normally support it.

That context helps explain where we are—and it also clarifies what is now needed.

Recently, members of the Standing Committee met with Bishop Lane, Search Consultant Devon Anderson, and Search Team leadership to reflect on the present state of the search. Their conversation affirmed several areas of concern that have become increasingly clear:

- We need stronger communication capacity and expertise to help us share information clearly, consistently, and in ways that build trust.
- The diocesan profile currently under development is reflecting a deeper truth—that we do not yet have a fully integrated or clearly articulated diocesan identity.
- The structure and leadership of the search process itself would benefit from clearer roles, expectations, and coordination.

At the same time, we must also be honest about what many are feeling. There is a growing perception in parts of the Diocese that the process has lacked transparency, with concerns about decisions being made out of view. Whether or not that perception fully reflects reality, it is real in its impact. Trust is essential to any election process, and we must tend to it with care.

We also recognize that we are behind our original timeline. Other dioceses, including Lexington and Kansas, have recently had to reopen their searches after their initial applicant pools were exhausted—reminding us that moving too quickly, or without sufficient clarity, can ultimately hinder the process rather than help it.

It is within this context that we share the following: **We are entering a season of reset in our bishop search process.**

This decision has not been made lightly. It comes from a growing recognition that, while much good work has already been achieved, the process itself needs strengthening—particularly in clarity, communication, shared expectations, and broad diocesan engagement. We believe this reset will allow us not simply to continue the work, but to do it well.

At its heart, this is not about delay but rather faithfulness: faithfulness to one another and to our mission to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We have heard clearly that our Diocese longs for a process that is transparent, collaborative, and grounded in who we truly are. We have also recognized that the profile we were developing did not yet fully reflect our shared identity, our challenges, our strengths or our hopes. Rather than move forward prematurely, we believe it is wiser to take the time needed to listen more deeply, speak more honestly, and discern more clearly.

In the months ahead, this reset will include a renewed season of listening across the Diocese, creating space for clergy and lay leaders to reflect on who we are and who God is calling us to become.

1. We will share more of the data from the Holy Cow Survey and our Listening Sessions and invite a collaborative and iterative approach to the diocesan profile, ensuring it reflects both our reality and our hope.
2. We will clarify expectations and strengthen the structure supporting the Search Committee, so that their important work is well-resourced and well-coordinated.
3. And we will invest in stronger, more consistent communication, so that all may remain informed and engaged throughout the process. This will include hiring a communication consultant to assist us.

Of course, this also means an adjustment to our timeline. While details are still being finalized, the overall process will extend beyond our previous expectations. We understand that this may be difficult news, but we are confident that taking this time now will serve the Diocese well in the long run.

We want to be clear: the work is continuing. This reset will build a stronger and more faithful foundation for what comes next.

Throughout this process, we remain deeply grateful for the faithful work already offered by the Search Committee, the Transition Committee, and so many across the Diocese. Your commitment, patience, and care for the Church are evident, and they matter.

We are also grateful for the steady leadership of Bishop Lane, who continues to walk closely with us in this season and remains fully engaged in supporting the Diocese through this transition. He is committed to remaining with us until the new Diocesan Bishop is ordained.

Friends, moments like this invite us to take a breath—not out of anxiety, but out of trust. We believe God is at work among us. We have the gifts, the wisdom, and the time to do this well. And so we move forward—not rushed, not reactive—but grounded, attentive, and hopeful.

Please continue to hold this Diocese, and this process, in your prayers.

Faithfully,
The Standing Committee
Episcopal Diocese of Western New York

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Trinity Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
March 24, 2026
As approved at the April Meeting

Present: Melisa Eichmann, Warden; Jake Wilkins, Junior Warden; Ann Sullivan; Cathy Berner (video-conference); Janeil Rey; Virginia Becker, Treasurer; Jenn Wilkins, Clerk;
The Reverend James Clement, Rector.

Excused:

Call to Order: Father Clement called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m., with an opening prayer.

Meeting Agenda: Agenda approved with a motion made by Jake Wilkins, seconded by Cathy Berner.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Ginny Becker, seconded by Ann Sullivan to approve the February 17, 2026 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Finance / Building and Grounds:

Finance: Written report prepared by Ginny Becker and presented. Janeil Rey made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report, which was seconded by Melissa Eichmann. Motion carried. See attached report.

- **General Fund:** Invoices for monthly expenses were received and paid. Gugino Heating & Plumbing was paid for inspecting a roof leak in Garland Hall due to ice dam build-up.
- **Building Fund:** The cash balance of the building fund remains \$241.34.
- **Memorial Fund:** The current balance is \$4,127.28.
- **Music Fund:** The cash balance is \$913.36.

Buildings & Ground: Reported by Father Clement.

- Gugino Heating & Plumbing inspected and did an adjustment to the new rooftop unit, which was affected by the recent extreme winter temperatures. The unit is functioning properly since this repair call.
- The recent winter weather and ice build-up caused the rain downspout at the clerestory level of the church to fall down. Also, water has made its way into the parish hall where the building meets the church building. Fr. Clement sought advice about calling A. W. Farrell roofing company. Vestry agreed that the company should be contacted. An appointment will be scheduled to review these concerns, and a request to repair the upper gutter will be made.
- Jake Wilkins contacted the Lake Shore Bank regarding the snow pile against the parish hall exterior wall. The snow plow company was subsequently contacted and its removal was completed.

Congregational Ministries:

Flower Guild: Melisa Eichmann reported.

- Easter lilies and tulips have been ordered, as well as a wreath for the font. Palm branches and crosses have been received and the invoice paid. Balance of \$504.29 at Fresh-n-Fancy.

TECW:

- Spring Rummage sale will take place on Friday, April 24 (9am – 3pm) and Saturday, April 25 (9am – 12pm). Setup is Sunday, April 19, and assistance is needed throughout the week. Drop-off for items begins on Sunday, April 19, and continues through the following Thursday.
- April meeting will take place on Saturday, April 11 at 9:30am.

College Kitchen:

- Fredonia Village clean-up is on Saturday, April 18th (to be approved by Village board prior to this date). Trinity will be present with hotdogs for college students and community volunteers at the West Municipal Lot. Police Benevolent Association coordinates the volunteers.

Rector’s Report:

- Trinity will host another recital by the Sonos Saxophone Quartet on Sunday, April 16, at 3:00 o’clock. If it can be coordinated, a reception will be held afterwards in Garland Hall.
- The Holy Week schedule is posted on website and a schedule notice will be placed in The Observer newspaper.
- The parish newsletter, *Trinity Tidings*, will be distributed during the next two days.
- A reminder that the Easter Sunday service will begin at a special time: 10 o’clock. Also, at least eight choristers will be present in the Chancel Choir.
- Fr. Clement will not be present on Sunday, April 12. Rod Geiben will officiate Morning Prayer, with Peggy Tofil assisting.
- Fr. Clement plans to attend the upcoming Chrism Mass at the Cathedral in Buffalo.
- A regional confirmation/renewal service will be held at the Cathedral in September.

Old Business

- N/A.

New Business

- N/A.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m. with a motion made by Janeil Rey, seconded by Melissa Eichmann. Carried. Vestry concluded its time together with prayer. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Jennifer Wilkins.

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Parish Notes



All Are Invited!

To attend a special coffee hour on Sunday, May 10, following the 10:30 service.

This will be the final Sunday with the Chancel Choir before the summer term begins.

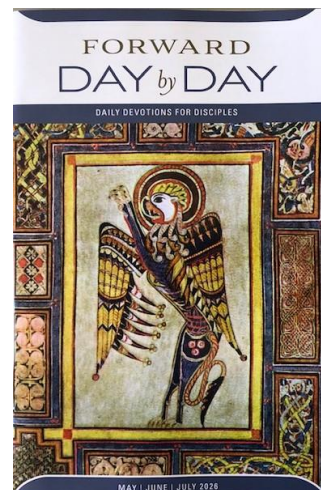
Let thank all our choristers for their commitment to singing during the various worship services this past year. We also wish our student choristers who are in their senior year a fond *Godspeed* as they enter into a new chapter of life!



A Reminder!

Our summer worship schedule begins on **Sunday, June 7!**

With one service:
Holy Eucharist, Rt. II at 9:30 a.m.



Forward Day by Day

Forward Movement Publication’s Day by Day daily meditation booklet for the months of May, June, and July are now available. Free copies, both regular and large print editions, are located at each entrance into the church buildings. Pick up your copy today!



Coffee Hour

Thank you to everyone who make our fellowship time after the worship service so wonderful!

We would appreciate contributions of baked goods for this event. They can be homemade or store bought. Also, there is a sign-up form located at the kitchen counter if you wish to host a coffee hour. Thank you, again!

--- *The Kitchen Crew*

TECW

Meeting:

May 2, at 9:30 a.m.
in Garland Hall

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way with the recent Spring Rummage Sale. With everyone's bits and whatever spare time of help we were able to take in over \$900. This allows us to continue our support of Rural Ministry Friendly Kitchen meals, which in the current economic climate are so needed by so many.

It also lets us help others in need in our communities. Start saving your bits for the fall!

--- *Doreen Gould*

Birthdays in May

- 9 Jake Wilkins
- 11 Nathan Sercu
- 13 Mary Lou Sherman
- 17 Ray Chin
- 21 Elizabeth Roberts
- 21 Catherine Graves
- 22 Tom Kennedy
- 22 Jon Weekly

Wedding Anniversaries

- 15 Lisa and Walt Sedlmayer

In Memoriam

- 12 Jim Johnson

Trinity Tidings

Trinity Episcopal Church

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Parish Clergy and Staff

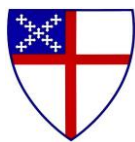
The Revd. James Clement, Rector

Donald Fellows, Organist

Sara Jagoda, Custodian

Trinity Episcopal Church
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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*